

THE INDEPENDENT

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Elizabeth David: a dash of sex, a dish of scandal REVIEW FRONT



Nigel Hawthorne: Pop goes the sex, bigotry and the BBC COMMENT, PAGE 4

ARTS, PAGE 12

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

Brown is snubbed in EU tax row

TONY BLAIR'S European strategy was thrown into disarray last night as Germany and France called for abolition of the British veto over tax policy - a move which would open the door to a wide-ranging EU tax harmonisation.

The Franco-German push, at a meeting of European finance ministers, left British ministers and officials struggling to calm growing fears that London would be forced to accept a common tax policy.

In a further setback for Mr Blair, President Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Ger-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels AND ANDREW GRICE

hard Schröder of Germany - meeting in Potsdam - issued a joint call for "speedy progress in harmonising taxes".

Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's controversial new finance minister, inflamed the debate in Britain over EU integration by arguing that the Government would eventually have to surrender its veto on tax policy.

Currently, all 15 member

states must agree any changes. But Mr Lafontaine told journalists in Brussels: "I believe the principle of unanimity can't be maintained in the long run."

He quickly won crucial backing from his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Asked if he backed Mr Lafontaine's thinking, Mr Strauss-Kahn replied: "Absolutely." He added: "On certain tax subjects we must end unanimity."

For Britain, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, dismissed Mr Lafontaine's statement as a "personal view", and insisted that any move to scrap the

British veto would need to be agreed by all 15 EU countries.

"He won't be making a proposal," said Mr Brown, "because he knows it requires a treaty change which requires unanimity, and that simply is not going to happen."

Downing Street said there was "not a cat in hell's chance" of the Lafontaine plan being implemented. But there was little attempt to conceal anger over Mr Lafontaine's remarks, which threaten to scupper the Government's attempts to reassure the public that it could not be railroaded into accepting EU

control over income tax, VAT and company taxation.

"He is just fuelling the paranoia of the Eurosceptics," said one cabinet minister.

The Tories said Mr Lafontaine's remarks showed that Mr Brown's claim that nobody wanted tax harmonisation in Europe was "simply ludicrous".

By heightening the tempo, yesterday's Franco-German initiative threatens to undermine the Government's unofficial strategy of nudging Britain close to membership of the euro, which is being launched by 11 EU countries next month.

Although not officially on the finance ministers' agenda yesterday, the pressure was mounting for more harmonisation of company taxation. Mr Lafontaine called for sweeping moves, not just to harmonise the rates of business tax, but tax bases and thresholds.

Mr Strauss-Kahn echoed the German demand for a minimum corporate rate of tax, arguing: "That's the whole idea behind this exercise." He added: "We can live with different VAT rates or excise tax rates on gas, because they don't lead to tax competition. We

would like to see tax harmonisation in two areas: corporate tax and savings taxation."

First steps towards coordination - being made through a code of conduct designed to stamp out "harmful" tax competition, were speeded up yesterday - despite British opposition. Germany, France and Italy led a successful move to bring forward by six months a report originally scheduled for November 1999.

In what was being seen as an attempt to deflect domestic attention from the tax row, Mr Brown used yesterday's meet-

ing to line up behind Germany and France in calling for a five-year reprieve for duty-free shopping which is scheduled to be abolished next June.

The Chancellor had not previously demonstrated any enthusiasm for retaining duty free, but yesterday he blamed the previous Tory government for helping to bury the tax perk, and said he now backed a delay. Despite the firm opposition of at least six member states, campaigners believe there are hopes it can be salvaged.

Brown cornered, page 7

'Distressed' Pinochet moves out of hospital

GENERAL AUGUSTO Pinochet moved into a rented property on one of Britain's most exclusive private estates last night after being told to leave a hospital in London.

Before he left, the former Chilean dictator said through his lawyers that he was distressed at suggestions that he had overstayed his welcome at Grovelands Priory Hospital in Southgate, north London.

His solicitor, Michael Caplan, said: "Senator Pinochet and his family are distressed by reports concerning the Senator's stay at Grovelands Priory Hospital... The Senator has always been anxious to move from the hospital as soon as possible and suggestions that he has been reluctant to do so are wholly unfounded."

The hospital said it had been a full two weeks since it was stated in court that General Pinochet was fit to attend his next bail hearing and it was "inappropriate" for him to remain.

One member of staff said before his departure: "Frankly we can't wait for him to go. There is no longer any reason for General Pinochet to stay, and it will be much better for our other residents if he does go."

General Pinochet was heckled by a handful of protesters as he left the hospital just before 7 o'clock last night. He was accompanied by a police doctor.

Several motorcycle riders from television stations attempted to follow the motorcade to find out where the general would be staying, but were prevented from doing so by police.

Friends of the 83-year-old

BY KIM SENGUPTA, LOUISE JURY, AND MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

general found a rented property for him on the Wentworth Estate at Virginia Water, Surrey, where fellow residents include the comedians Bruce Forsyth and Russ Abbot.

It is understood that among General Pinochet's backers is Carlos Carceres, president of the Chilean subsidiary of BAT, the international tobacco corporation. He has also received help from Nico Rogerson, former partner in Dewe Rogerson, a City public relations firm, and Lord Bell, former PR adviser to the Tories and a long-time associate of Baroness Thatcher.

The manoeuvring over the legal fate of General Pinochet continued yesterday with the United States administration urging the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to treat Chile's demands for the senator's return with "significant respect".

But James Rubin, State Department spokesman, denied the Clinton administration was pushing Britain into making a decision in favour of the general's release.

At the same time the department said it was releasing confidential documents relating to human rights abuses under General Pinochet.

Answering reporters' questions in Washington, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said the citizens of Chile were "wrestling with a very difficult problem of how to balance the need of justice with the requirements of reconciliation".

Like having Hitler for a neighbour, page 3

Portrait in elephant dung wins Turner Prize



'No Woman No Cry', by Turner winner Chris Ofili. The figure has an elephant-dung pendant Peter Macdiarmid

CHRIS OFILI, who paints with elephant dung, won the £20,000 Turner Prize last night. He was the first painter since Howard Hodgkin in 1985 to win the visual arts' most prestigious award. Recent years have seen the award going to installation and video artists and sculptors.

Ofili, 29, the odds-on favourite, was praised by the jury for "the originality and energy of his painting and his dynamic use of colour". Born in Manchester, he studied at the Royal College of Art. The Turner Prize exhibition contains one of his most topical and powerful paintings, *No Woman No Cry*, a black woman crying, with every tear containing a picture of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

It was intended to portray universal grief and suffering, with particular attention to the black community. But as he worked, he became increasingly aware of the Lawrence inquiry and, according to the Tate curator Virginia Button, aware of the image of Doreen Lawrence often in tears, and brought this into his painting.

"Chris followed the coverage of the inquiry and Mrs Lawrence would always be there, weeping, and this is Chris's tribute." The figure,

BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

who wears a pendant of elephant dung, was inspired by Mrs Lawrence, although it is not a portrait.

Another of Ofili's works, *The Adoration of Captain Shit and the Legend of the Black Stars* (Part 2), is described in the Tate exhibition catalogue as being made of acrylic, oil, resin, glitter, paper collage, map pins and elephant dung on canvas with two dung supports.

Ofili beat a shortlist of Tacita Dean, 32, Cathy de Monchaux, 37, and Sam Taylor-Wood, 31. Dean's work included a video of Hungarian women in a steam bath; Taylor-Wood used video with a split-screen view of a couple arguing in a restaurant; de Monchaux had wall sculptures of metal, pink leather and suede, and a group of lead structures resembling tombstones.

The jury, chaired by the Tate Gallery director Nicholas Serota, comprised Ann Gallagher, exhibition officer at the British Council, Fumio Nanjo, curator and critic, Marina Warner, author, and Neil Tennant, member of The Pet Shop Boys and representative of the Patrons of New Art.

Oil giants in world's biggest merger

THE WORLD'S biggest merger was unveiled yesterday as the US oil giants Exxon and Mobil joined forces in a \$260bn deal. The merger capped an extraordinary day that saw takeover deals announced with a total value of nearly \$330bn.

Exxon Mobil will be the world's third largest company by value behind Microsoft and General Electric of the US,

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

and the world's biggest business by sales, with combined revenues of \$203bn.

The past fortnight has seen a feeding frenzy across the world's financial markets with a string of mega-mergers spanning the oil, pharmaceuticals, Internet, banking and engineering sectors.

The wave of merger activity has helped revive world stock markets, with Wall Street now above 9,000 points and back near to its record high.

Two deals unveiled on this side of the Atlantic yesterday looked positively modest compared with Exxon Mobil but are some of Europe's biggest mergers. The French oil group Total is merging with Petrofi-

na, of Belgium, in a deal worth \$39bn, while the chemicals companies Hoechst, of Germany, and Rhône-Poulenc, of France, are combining their pharmaceuticals business in a \$38bn merger.

On Monday, Germany's Deutsche bank announced it was taking over Bankers Trust of the US for \$10bn while last week, Siebe and BTR of Britain

merged in a deal worth £8.7bn.

The US is also still adjusting to the biggest takeover yet of an Internet business - America Online's \$4.1bn acquisition of Netscape Communications.

Exxon, which trades under the Esso name in Britain, and Mobil together have about 25 per cent of the UK petrol market and employ a total of 4,100 people in Britain.

Mobil

EXXON

Mobil and Exxon will form a \$330bn company

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Hope for pit villages
The Government is to spend £350m on deprived mining communities
Home P4

Catch indecency
Gay rights leader Peter Tatchell was fined £18.60
Home P5

Forecasters' disaster
Hurricane experts admit they failed this year
Foreign P16

Manager in demand
Blackburn Rovers want Coventry's Strachan
Sport P30

Footballer's
FTSE 100 had its biggest one-day fall since the crash of October 1987
Business P18

Peregrine Worsthorpe
The shifting sands of class in modern Britain
Comment P4

Ken Livingstone
Why Labour keeps a dossier of my political shortcomings
Comment P4

Mountain bikes
One of the irritations of modern life
Features P8

Mother's Ruin
How Dylan Thomas and drink did for my mother
Caitlin
Features P9

Stores in their eyes
Harvey Nicks et al are fighting for your cash
Fashion P10

Answers to his adoring public in 'You Ask The Questions'
Features P8

Stores in their eyes
Harvey Nicks et al are fighting for your cash
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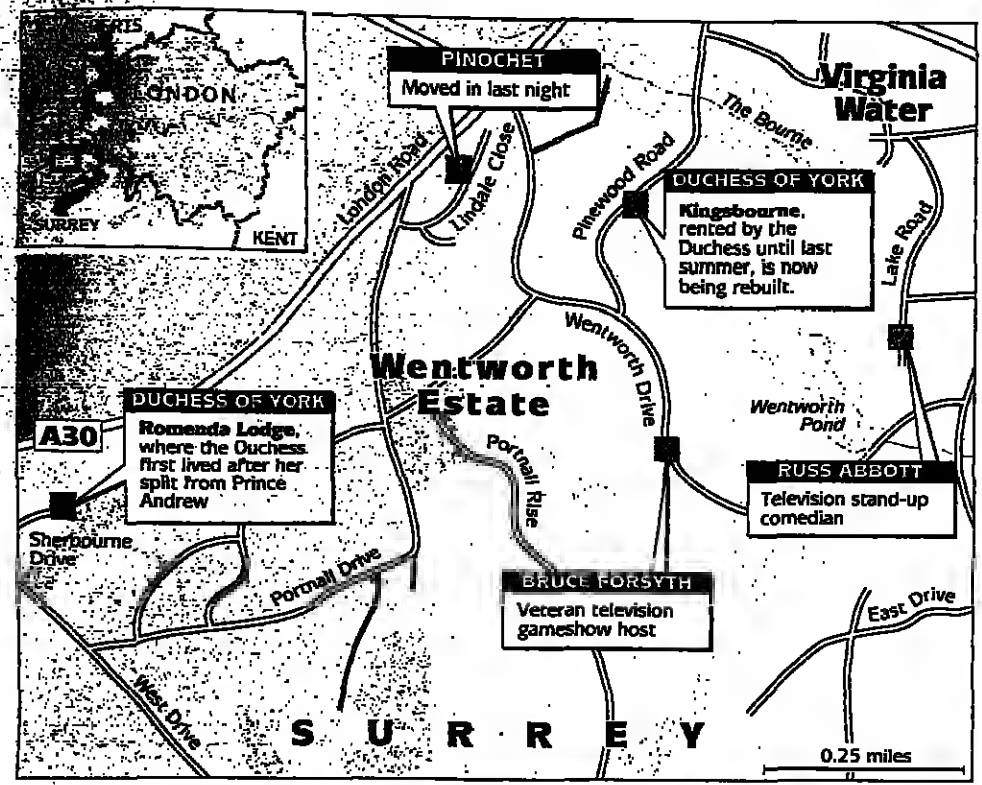
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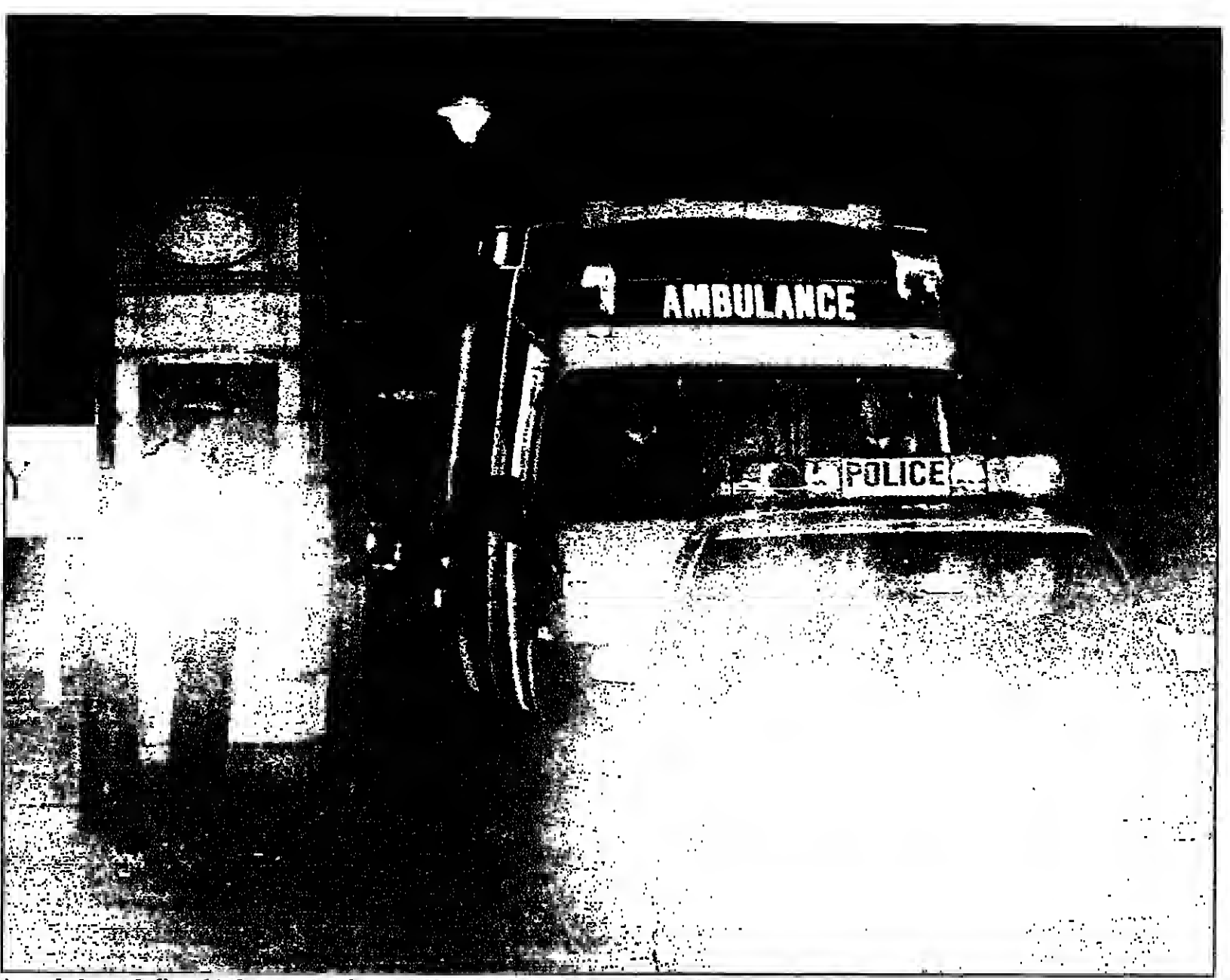
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Casablanca	f 17 63	Kingston	5 30 86	Perth	c -5 23	Wellington	c 18 64

It's like having Hitler move in,' say the general's new neighbours in the gin belt



(From left) Russ Abbot, Bruce Forsyth have new Surrey neighbour ... Pinochet



An ambulance, believed to be carrying General Pinochet, is escorted by police from Grovelands hospital in north London Paul Hackett

THE DRIVEWAYS are long and curve gently up towards large, modern houses set in grounds kept immaculate by hired help. There is an abundance of trees, an abundance of swimming pools, and no shortage of polished Bentleys. The well-dressed residents have access to a golf club used for the World Matchplay Championship.

Welcome to the exclusive Wentworth Estate at Virginia Water, in Surrey's "gin belt", home to celebrities such as Bruce Forsyth, Russ Abbot and at one time the Duchess of York, and resting home - at least as of last night - to a former Latin American dictator.

From now on social-climbing residents here will be keeping up with the Pinochets. The general, forced out of a private hospital in north London, arrived at the estate near Guildford last night and moved into a high-walled, nine-bedroomed rented property in Lindale Close.

Uniformed police sealed off that part of the estate and before the general moved in there were checks carried out by officers and dog-handlers. There

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE, KIM SENGUPTA AND CATHY CONNORFORD

will be a round-the-clock presence until the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, decides the fate of the 83-year-old accused of genocide.

The former dictator's arrival last night drew a mixed reaction from the neighbours. One said she couldn't care less while another said it was like being told Hitler had moved in next door.

"To be honest it doesn't surprise me," said the woman, who asked not to be named. "There are supposed to be Russian underworld figures and members of the Hong Kong Triads living around us on the estate, so a former Chilean dictator who is supposed to be responsible for the disappearance of hundreds of his own people is not exactly big news."

Another resident, retired banker Sheila Wickens, 60, said she thought half the estate was made up of homes that were rented out, many to foreigners working in Britain.

"Each resident pays for se-

curity on the estate. There are guards who patrol the grounds and each road is gated off," she said. "People can pay for close circuit TV and burglar alarms are linked to the police station."

The general has moved into one of the most exclusive parts of the estate, close to the golf course and around 600yds from Pinewood Road, where until March last year the Duchess of York lived following her divorce from Prince Andrew.

On this part of the estate the houses cost upwards of £6m and some of the driveways are more than half-a-mile long. "You may not see your neighbour in months," said one resident.

Estate agent Edward Rook, of Knight Frank, which has sold many of the houses, said: "International people like to come here. It is an American style of living."

"There is a bit of space, more than in central London, but not a huge amount of elbow room. The thing is it is not a burden, easily manageable if you are away or overseas."

None of this comes cheaply. Estimates suggest the house

Pinochet will share with his wife, daughter and small entourage will cost around £10,000 a month to rent. It is understood that in addition to this the owner insisted that insurance be taken out against bomb, rocket or firearm damage before his notorious client could move in.

However, the general's supporters say that money is not a problem. All they want is for his enforced stay in Britain to be as comfortable as possible.

Just who is bank-rolling General Pinochet is not clear but it is understood that among his backers is Carlos Carceres, President of the Chilean subsidiary of British & American Tobacco (BAT), the international tobacco corporation.

There has also been help from Nico Rogerson, former partner in Dewe Rogerson, a City PR firm, and Lord Bell, former PR adviser to the Tories. Sebastian Santa Cruz, the brother of Lucia Santa Cruz - a former close friend of Prince Charles - has been acting as co-ordinator for the campaign.

BAT denied yesterday that it was contributing to the gener-

al's hospital stay or legal bills. However, Michael Prideaux, director of consumer affairs, said that some "external" directors of its subsidiary, Chile Tobaccos SA, were helping.

"Chile Tobaccos is the biggest cigarette manufacturer in the country and we own 70 per cent of it," he said. "The other 30 per cent is represented by local shareholders, some of whom have been voicing their support for General Pinochet and pointing out the

dangers to democracy that this case is posing.

"BAT is not contributing financially to his medical treatment or his legal bills. Our opinion, however, is that it would be a great shame if all this grandstanding undermined democracy in Chile."

It is understood television advertisements - possibly paid for by the Pinochet Foundation - are running in Chile, asking his supporters to make donations to a numbered account.

Despite his notoriety, the general is apparently not short of friends. This weekend the columnist Taki Theodoracopulos said he and Robin Birley, stepson of the late Sir James Goldsmith, had been trying to arrange somewhere for the dictator to live.

"We found one house but the police said it was too far from the M25," Mr Theodoracopulos said. "We are simply concerned that if he is detained in Britain he should be kept in dignified

circumstances. After all, he is an old man."

Mr Theodoracopulos yesterday declined to comment on whether he or others were involved in paying for the Virginia Waters property. "He has said all he wanted to do at the weekend," said his secretary.

However, as the residents of the Wentworth Estate returned home last, the one certainty was that in the coming days there would be plenty more to say about their new neighbour.

Girl christened as boy wins right to new birth certificate

BY GARY ENN

A GIRL who started life registered on her birth certificate as a boy has won an eight-year battle to be officially recognised as female.

Ten-year-old Joella Holliday, whose cause was championed by the late Princess of Wales, has convinced the Office of National Statistics to change her birth certificate, after a rare disfiguring illness caused her to be identified as a boy.

Joella was born with a medical condition affecting 1 in 150,000 and her chances of survival were thought to be slim. But after an operation at 17-months, surgeons were able to help her lead life as a girl.

Now the Statistics Office has relented and has taken the unusual step of allowing a birth certificate gender entry to be reversed.

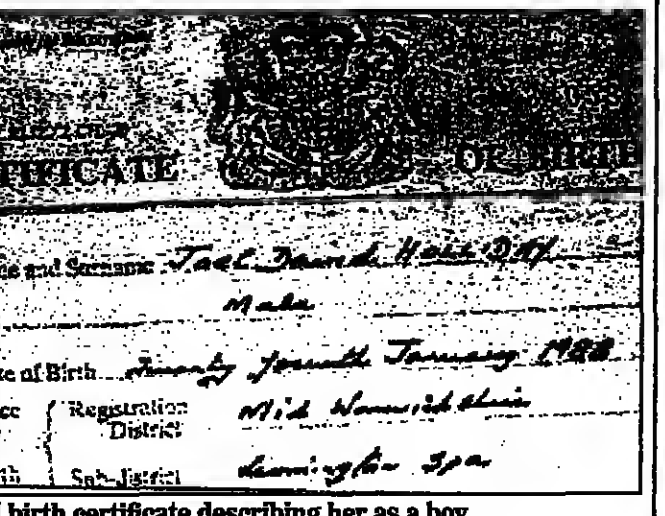
This was after it was presented with a 47-page report from medical experts and testimony from the chaplain who christened her Joel David.

The family are planning a second christening in her village church in Pinchbeck, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, before Christmas.

The ruling will not affect hundreds of transsexuals who want their gender officially changed, as the law does not allow them to change their birth certificates.



Joella Holliday and her old birth certificate describing her as a boy



The official change of sex, which the family believe is a first, came after a crusade by Joella's mother, Julia Farmer, 30, who gathered medical evidence about her daughter's birth. Mrs Farmer enlisted the help of the Princess of Wales in 1996, who sent the family messages of support.

Yesterday Joella's words on hearing the news were: "Does this mean that I can get married, mum?" Joella added: "It's really good. I can look forward to getting married. It means a lot to me."

Mrs Farmer said: "There were that many obstacles in the way right down to us being refused legal aid that they must have thought we wouldn't carry

on. It was our persistence that won out. When the letter came from our solicitors I couldn't open it. I just thought it was another delay.

"But when I read the first few paragraphs I couldn't believe it. I stopped and went back to the beginning to check there wasn't a catch.

"I don't think I will believe it until the birth certificate is in my hand. We are still waiting for a copy to arrive.

"I also feel annoyed that they put us through all this and they can only tell us in a letter.

"We knew the Office of National Statistics was discussing it and it would only have taken a 'no' and we were ready to go

to the High Court."

Joella has already undergone dozens of operations for her condition, called exomphalos ectopia vesicae and hemi-bladder.


It meant that her bladder and intestines were outside of her body, there was no abdominal wall and she had an unfurled phallus in two parts.

The Office of National Statistics confirmed yesterday it would be issuing a new birth certificate for Joella.

A spokesman said: "There must have been an error at the time of registration and evidence would have had to have been supplied corroborating that."

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Ernest Jones

THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

Unemployment: Manufacturing output falling at sharpest rate for seven years as CBI claims fears are spreading

Gloom deepens as 1,700 jobs go

THE DEEPENING economic downturn claimed another 1,700 jobs yesterday, increasing pressure on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to cut interest rates again next week.

Courtaulds Textiles, a big supplier of clothing to Marks & Spencer, announced plans to cut 1,220 jobs at its Claremont Garments subsidiary, while the United Glass plant in St Helens, Merseyside, is to close with the loss of 450 jobs.

The news coincided with the publication of a survey by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing Managers which showed manufacturing output falling at its sharpest rate for seven years. Separately, the Confederation of British Industry warned that the decline in business confidence has now spread from the manufacturing industry to the service sector.

More positive news came from Peugeot, which said it was expanding UK production at its car factory at Ryton, Coventry, creating 900 jobs. The company estimated that the development could lead to the creation of a further 2,000 jobs at supply firms in the Midlands.

The job losses at Courtaulds Textiles came just two months after it acquired the struggling Claremont Garments business. The jobs will go at eight factories which are being closed. These include plants in Newton Aycliffe and Durham in the North-east; Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex; and Giltbrook and Sandiacre in the East Midlands.

The news is the latest in a string of redundancy announcements in the UK textile

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

sector. Last week Dewhurst, which makes men's shirts and ladies trousers for M&S, said it was cutting 600 jobs. William Baird, another M&S supplier, cut 477 jobs a week earlier.

The cuts follow a slump in consumer demand, the continued strength of the pound and a decline in sales at M&S which reported a 23 per cent fall in profits a month ago. M&S wants its suppliers to reduce the cost of the goods they make. With Britain's high labour costs, the companies are being forced to push supply to cheaper locations overseas.

However, Courtaulds Textiles denied the cuts related to M&S's plans to shift more manufacturing to cheaper overseas locations. Colin Dyer, its chief executive, said the closures were necessary to redress over-supply in the Claremont factories which make ladies casual wear, lingerie and formal wear for M&S.

The GMB trade union attacked Courtaulds for "asset-stripping" and said it would be working to reverse the decision.

When Courtaulds bought loss-making Claremont Garments it ordered a review of its operations. The company said the cuts were in line with expectations and it will detail the costs in a trading statement next month. "Our intention in making these closures and the cost-cutting that comes with them, plus the other cost-cutting we've done... is to restore the business to profitability for next year," said Mr Dyer.



James Hoken, who worked as a miner at Newstead colliery for 25 years, hopes the cash injection will bring life back to the village

Daniel Kennedy

Hopes rise in village where life is the pits

JUST a few years ago the wooden floors of the miners' welfare in Newstead echoed with the sound of ballroom dancing. Or if it wasn't dancing, it might be the jokes of a comedian booked for the night.

These days "the welfare", like the Nottinghamshire village, is usually quiet. When Newstead colliery shut nine years ago, it killed off a way of life, if not the village itself. No jobs, no money, no dancing, no laughter.

Yesterday, Newstead and scores of other coal communities devastated by the rundown of the industry, were offered a lifeline when the Government announced it was spending £350m on regeneration. The money will go towards creating jobs and housing and tackling

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND SHELDON MILLER

the hardship faced by those communities.

"(This) is a coordinated government response to combat the deprivation now faced by communities who once gave dedicated service to this country's coal industry," said the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, announcing the plan in Peterlee, Co Durham.

In Newstead the money cannot come soon enough. Despite the best efforts of local councils and voluntary agencies, the village is a ghost. There is one combined general store and post office, a fish and chip shop and a primary school, but that is about it. No doctor, no

playgroup, not a lot for the youngsters. If the unemployed miners are not in the council-funded drop-in centre, they spend their time in the Station Hotel where they make a pint of Shipston's bitter last the lunch-time session.

"Newstead used to be a proper village. Nobody had to bother, everyone was happy, everyone had an open door. There used to be a great community spirit," recalled James Hoken, drinking in the bar.

"Now there's nothing for people to do, so what is there to talk about? Children are the biggest problem, they are bored stiff. They don't understand how it used to be."

Indeed, it used to be very different. The colliery, which

opened in 1874 just a mile from Newstead Abbey - the former home of Lord Byron - was once one of the most productive in the country.

For 15 years from 1957, Newstead produced more than a million tons of coal a year. In 1966 the men mining the Newstead seam produced more than one and a quarter million tons of coal - almost three times the national average.

Since 1987 the colliery has been still, silent and vandalised behind a high wire fence.

"Just like people grieving over the loss of a relative, villages like Newstead are still in bereavement over the loss of their pits," said Chris Kerr, a development worker for the Nottinghamshire Rural Community

Council which runs a drop-in centre to help the unemployed.

Sadly employment - particularly jobs that pay a decent wage - is a commodity in short supply. "Nottingham has got more security guards than Fort Knox," said Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. "Men who used to earn a decent wage of £500-a-week now have to take jobs paying no more than £2-an-hour. The effect of the closures on these communities has been devastating."

Mr Prescott said the money will be spent over three years as part of a programme to tackle social and employment problems. A further £10m grant by the Department of Trade and Industry for regeneration and de-

velopment will be split between

England, Scotland and Wales. A total of £750m will be spent on housing, £1.1bn on employment and training and £200m on regeneration - figures welcomed by the Coalfield Communities Campaign, which represents 86 local councils in coalfield areas.

At Newstead, where there has been considerable effort on regeneration, they have plans for a £1m refurbishment of the beloved "welfare". While the building is still used by the line dancing group and for craft fairs, the locals hope investment could help set up a community cafe and return the building to its former glories. With help, the sound of laughter may yet return to Newstead.

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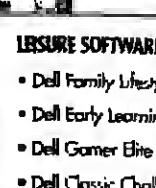
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Children in Johannesburg were taking part in an AIDS awareness rally as campaigners around the world were marking AIDS Day yesterday. Every minute of the year 11 people contract the HIV virus. *Juda Nguwenya/Reuters*

Minister tells of BSE 'thunderbolt'

THE FORMER agriculture minister William Waldegrave said yesterday that news of the link between mad cow disease, or BSE, and "new variant" CJD in humans, was "a thunderbolt" and "the worst moment" of his political career.

Yet he and other former Tory agriculture ministers, Angela Browning and Earl Howe, insisted to the BSE Inquiry that their prime interest had always been public health rather than that of the farming industry - and that the two were not mutually antagonistic.

"It's false to suggest there's a dichotomy between human health and protecting the farming industry," said Mr Waldegrave. "As we have seen after this disaster, the best way of protecting the farming industry was being tough on the human health issues."

As the minister at the top of

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) in 1995 and 1996, and before that as a minister in the Department of Health, he had had "scars" when it seemed that the Government's repeated insistence that BSE could not pass to humans would turn out to be false.

But ministers had no contingency plans for what to do if that happened, because the problem seemed neither large enough to qualify as a civil disaster - nor small enough to be easily solved by busy civil servants. The result was that no plans were made, despite mounting evidence that slaughterhouses were continuing to let potentially infected material pass into food.

"I was scared at one point because of the issue of CJD in

farmers," Mr Waldegrave said, referring to November 1995 when a fourth case of "classic" CJD - which still has no known cause - was discovered in a British farmer. However, he was "very firmly advised" the case was a statistical fluke which did not herald an epidemic.

But in March 1996, a memo arrived detailing a link between BSE and nv-CJD. "This was the biggest emergency of my political career, the most difficult and important crisis which I have ever dealt with. There were a number of ways in one's nightmares one could have imagined this happening."

"But all through my period at the Ministry of Agriculture, it felt the opposite. It felt like the epidemic was disappearing slowly from animals, it was all turning out - thank God - as predicted. There was the flurry of alarm over the farmers,

which went away. Then the thunderbolt came."

Agriculture ministers also came under repeated pressure from the animal feedstuff companies to ease rules banning the recycling of cattle in animal feed. One delegation from the Agricultural Suppliers' Association suggested that the Government should just redefine recycled cattle remains as "safe" for use - despite the fact that such products first led to the BSE epidemic.

Of his role at the Department of Health, from 1990 to 1992, he defended saying then that beef was safe to eat. "If you want to know if it's safe to fly on an airplane, and as a minister I reply that it's been certified as airworthy. I'm then going to be asked 'Would you fly in it?' And the answer is yes, I would... But if you say it's safe, you aren't saying there's no risk there."

Put people, first, Short tells WWF

CLARE SHORT, the international development secretary, told a meeting of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) yesterday that conservation efforts would be fruitless without a focus on poverty.

"We cannot care for the planet without caring better for its people," Ms Short told a WWF conference on poverty and the environment. She welcomed the theme of the meeting.

Ms Short criticised Western hypocrisy on moves to protect the environment. "We are the major polluters of the planet - and now we are demanding that the developing world does not add to the pollution."

She noted that many in the South were "deeply suspicious" that, having extracted all that we (in the developed North) needed to secure our economic development, we are trying to pull the ladder up after us.

She argued that environmental damage was inevitable in poorer countries: "It's poor people who often have no alternative but to over-exploit, and by so doing degrade the local eco-system on which they depend in order to survive."

The speech marked Ms Short's main policy statement on the environment, entitled: "Why the environment matters."

She has repeatedly tackled sensitive questions, including war and famine in Sudan, where she argued that aid to the hungry was "unnecessary" because it lessened the pressure for a ceasefire.

Ms Short argued that the Sudanese rebels' refusal to

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

agree to a truce was an important reason why food was not getting through.

Her statements were enormously controversial, but many observers believe that they have been largely vindicated, and pressure for political change has had an important effect.

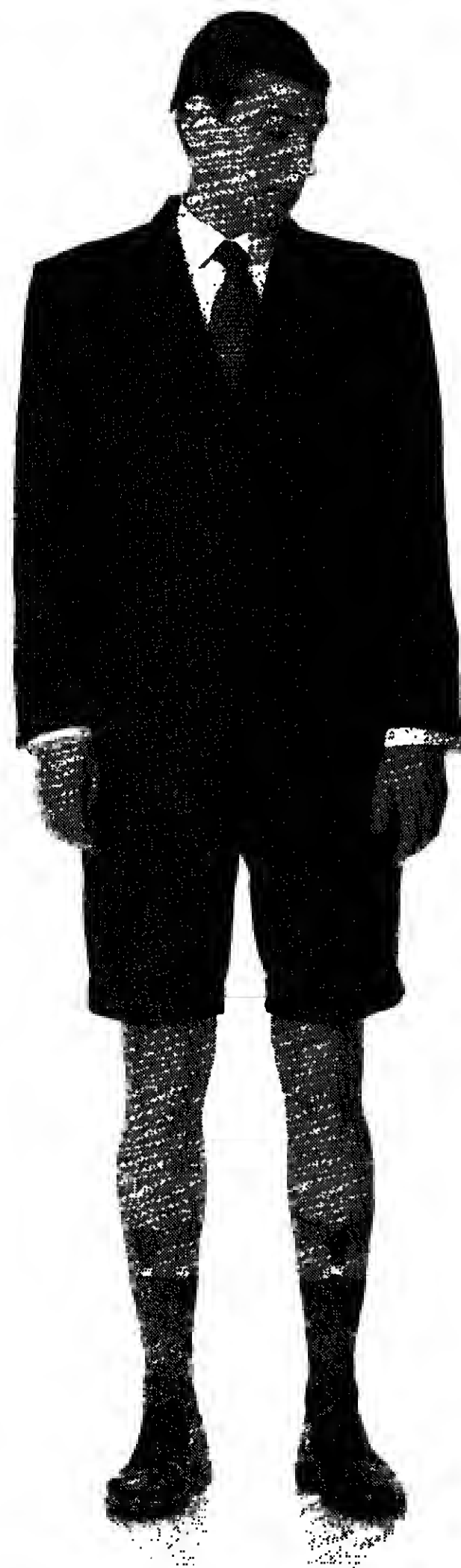
She referred to the figure that has become her crusading leitmotif - the "key goal" of reducing by half the number of people living in abject poverty by 2015, saying: "You may ask, 'Why only half?' Because this is an affordable and achievable aim."

The development secretary argued against "doom and gloom and endless denunciations", and said that people should move "from passing the buck to finding the solutions". She argued: "It is when people know a solution that they demand action."

Ms Short used to be regularly described as "gaffe-prone". Even now, the theme occasionally returns. The *Mirror* newspaper published an article recently on "Clare's top 10 gaffes", which included her call in the 1990s for Page Three girls to be banned, and her statement in 1996 that the well-off should pay more tax.

Increasingly, however, her outspokenness has come to be seen as a strength. Where most politicians are perceived as spin-doctored, Ms Short is assumed to be speaking her mind, which, in her job, is a particular advantage.

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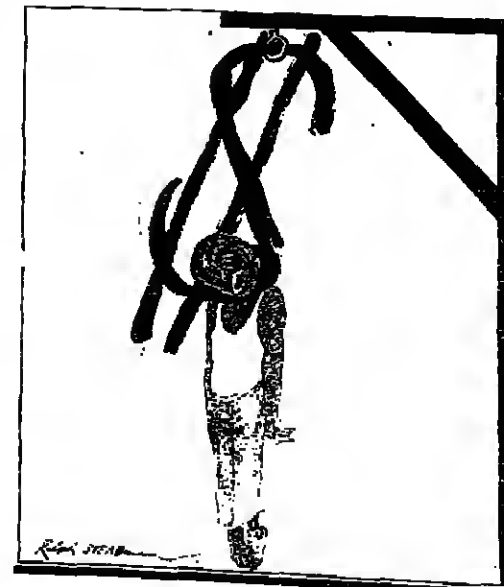
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THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

The Independent is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 22

Everyone as a member of society has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with organisation and resources of each state, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

How Euro-sceptics cornered Brown

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

AS GORDON Brown began his Brussels press conference yesterday the lights flickered and the Chancellor of the Exchequer stumbled before reaching the podium. "Thank goodness there were no cameras," said Mr Brown. It was one of the Chancellor's few strokes of luck on the day that New Labour's high-profile love-in with Europe's new socialist leaders developed into another presentational nightmare.

Just yards from where Mr Brown was speaking, the new German Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, was busy making an incendiary call for Britain to give up its veto on tax policy. Within hours his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, asked if he backed Mr Lafontaine's ideas responded with one word: "Absolutely". All of which left Mr Brown facing a familiar British political problem: the Euro-sceptic media backlash.

It is difficult to believe that, only 10 days ago, some were trumpeting a new dawn of harmony between Britain and the new socialist consensus in Europe, with Mr Brown wooing his new allies.

Like all the best courtships it began with a gourmet dinner. In this case the location was the Swissotel in the heart of Brussels. With Mr Brown seated next to Mr Lafontaine, the festivities began. The ministers tucked into quail mousse with pine nuts, guinea fowl with chicory, followed by ice cream.

But throughout the dinner Mr Brown and Mr Lafontaine set the tone for what was to follow by disagreeing consistently. The issue under discussion was a paper prepared for the socialist group of finance ministers, which proposed the harmonisation of corporate tax rates. Mr Brown did not concur and took the precaution of instructing his special adviser, Ed Balls, to commit his opposition to paper. The Treasury probably knew the split was coming because the Chancellor had held a meeting with Mr Lafontaine in London and agreed a jobs initiative.

But at a finance ministers' meeting in Brussels the following day Mr Lafontaine backed the proposal, setting the stage for a new offensive by Euro-sceptic politicians and media. The *Daily Mail* seized on the issue and ran with it. The *Sun* joined in and questioned whether Mr Lafontaine was the "most dangerous man in Europe", printing its suggestion in German for good measure. When last Wednesday the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, suggested full political union, including a common European army, broadsheets including *The Daily Telegraph* gave prominence to the story.

Throughout a torrid 10 days a range of different European tax measures was thrown into the media pot, ranging from VAT to income tax. Some accounts were, to say the least, interpretative, but have still had their effect on the Government, which has been forced to backpedal.

There are two immediate problems for Mr Brown, posed

THOSE EU MYTHS - AND OCCASIONAL TRUTHS

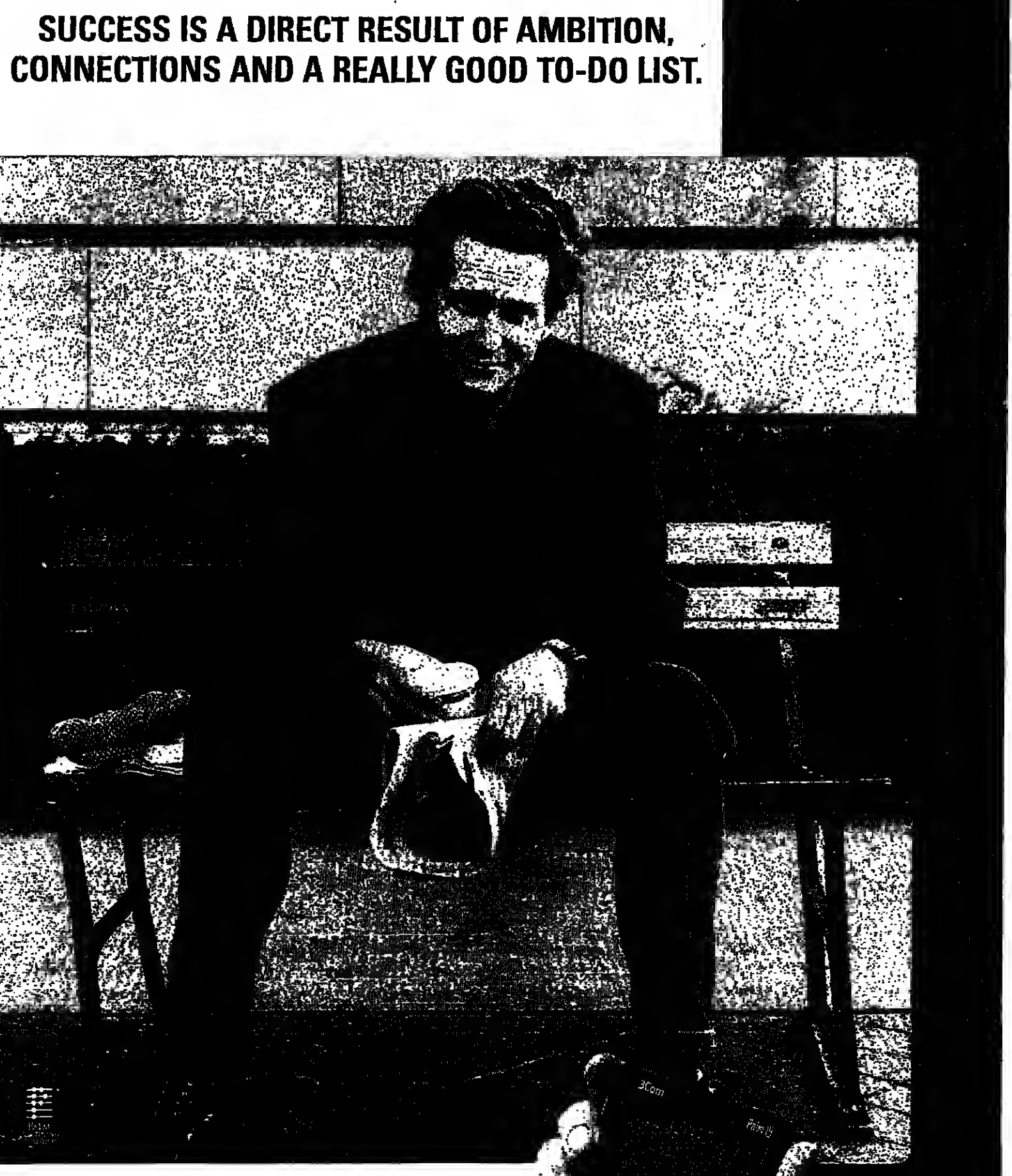
More tax on savings	Film industry tax breaks end	Company tax set in Brussels	VAT exemption removed	Uniform income tax	The swing to the Right	Duty free shopping saved	Babies to cost £1,000
There is a plan to withhold 20 per cent tax on interest earned by European citizens who invest their savings in other EU countries. This would also affect financial services. 11,000 city jobs may be at stake.	At present a package of measures aims to lure foreign investors and film-makers to the UK. This 'lunatics charter' may now be sacrificed on the ideological altar of reducing 'harmful' tax competition.	Corporate tax rates will be set by the EU. There is a suggestion that a 'floor' should be constructed to stop countries undercutting each other with preferential deals that attract foreign investors.	The suggestion is that the current zero-rating for items such as children's clothes, books and newspapers will be scrapped in an attempt to harmonise VAT on all goods across every member state of the EU.	It is being suggested that even personal income tax levels will be set by the Brussels bureaucrats as part of their aim of generating economic uniformity across the whole of what they regard as their empire.	The Prime Minister is reported to have pulled back from his friendship with French and German Socialists just as the Left achieves ascendancy in the EU. The reasons for this change of heart are not clear.	Due to be abolished in June 1999, Germany is now more favourable to a five-year reprieve on duty free shopping. The British government is now backing moves which would protect jobs, particularly on ferries.	There will be a euro-tax on babies. Details about the new scheme are unclear, but in a visitation reminiscent of the horrors visited on the Jews by Herod, firstborns of all European families could be targeted.
THE CHARGES	WHERE DID THE STORY SURFACE?	IS IT TRUE?					
In <i>The Times</i> on 9 November, but really a hardy perennial in the EU for at least 15 years. Gordon Brown confidently told BBC these are 'completely untrue' scare stories.	The <i>Times</i> yesterday announced a 'bonfire of tax incentives'. The Chancellor was said to be ready to join in an attack on 85 schemes, including British help for filmmakers.	German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine's push against all sorts of 'unfair competition' among EU partners was widely reported last week.	'Euro taxman targets VAT' announced the <i>Daily Mail</i> front page on 26 November. Mario Monti, EU tax commissioner was credited with raising this particular spectre.	Most famously on 25 November as part of the <i>Sun</i> portrayal of Lafontaine as possibly 'the most dangerous man in Europe' or 'der gefährlichste Mann Europas'.	'Blair ditched alliance of Left leaders' was the headline in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> yesterday. The PM was said to be jilting France and Germany for Spain.	In <i>The Independent</i> yesterday, German concern over job losses was reported to be dovetailing with the British and French concern for a reprieve of the travellers' perk.	'Are German EU bosses going to charge our families £1,000 a child?' The <i>Daily Mirror</i> asked yesterday, in a front-page riposte to the <i>Sun</i> 's Lafontaine scare.
Yes, but Britain may veto it. Estimated losses for the City are put at £5bn a year. In the wake of the onslaught from the Euro-sceptic press, Britain's somewhat ambivalent position has hardened considerably.	The Government has signed up to a voluntary code clamping down on 'sweetheart deals' and tax breaks designed to attract inward investment. In fact, a British minister, Dawn Primarolo, chairs the EU working group on the issue.	Not yet... there is no formal proposal to align corporate taxes but the idea is gaining support on the continent where the average business tax rate is around 40 per cent. This is definitely one to watch in the long term.	Not quite... there is already a minimum standard rate for VAT across Europe on most goods. There are no immediate proposals to harmonise VAT further but the European Commission is committed to closer alignment eventually.	No. The European Commission has ruled the measure out. However, one European Commissioner did go drastically off message last week by suggesting that, in the future, income of all Europeans should be taxed at the same rate.	No-one knows, including the government and the spin doctors have not yet pronounced. The story is based on a purported accord between Tony Blair and one of only two conservative premiers in Europe, Jose Maria Aznar, of Spain.	Yes. Seizing on anything that might strike a chord with <i>Sun</i> readers the Government has U-turned and backed a five-year reprieve. This is seen as a low-risk diversionary tactic which will probably get nowhere at all.	No. The <i>Mirror</i> front page was in fact a spoof, but it did highlight the frenzy that is undoubtedly sweeping through the <i>Mirror</i> 's rivals and the difficulty still faces in putting island Britain at the heart of Europe.

by the measures already proposed by the European Commission. The first is a move to reduce "harmful" tax competition, including the attempts by some countries, in particular Ireland but also Britain, to lure foreign investors with preferential corporate tax rates as low as 10 per cent. To combat this, the Commission has won agreement to a voluntary code of conduct. Work on this is chaired by the Treasury minister Dawn Primarolo.

This seemed uncontroversial enough until presented by some newspapers as a "harmonisation" threat. Mr Brown now argues that one British measure highlighted in Ms Primarolo's report, tax breaks for the film industry, is defensible. More problematic is a proposal for a withholding tax on savings, designed to combat the problem of cross-border competition. German investors, for example, can avoid paying tax on interest in their bank accounts by crossing into Luxembourg and opening a non-resident account. These measures will be easier when a common currency is created.

Until this week British opposition to the measure - which the UK can veto - was based on the fact that it would hit London's lucrative Eurobond market by requiring a 20 per cent deduction on interest payments. That, the City of London argues, would drive the Eurobond trade out of London, threatening as many as 11,000 jobs. Mr Brown, in the new media climate, has hardened his opposition again, arguing that London has difficulties

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Chancellor supports reprieve on duty free

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

THE CHANCELLOR, Gordon Brown, who put what was thought to be the final nail in the coffin for duty free last April, performed a U-turn before his ministerial colleagues yesterday by announcing in Brussels that he backed the postponement of plans to abolish duty-free shopping.

Britain's sudden support for a five-year delay, an idea now being canvassed by the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, with strong support from the French government, was revealed in yesterday's *Independent*. But it came as shock news to campaigners for duty free, led by the airlines and ferry companies. "Gordon Brown is now saying he would support a delay. This is a major shift from May last and it gives us great hope," said John Hume, of the International Duty Free Confederation.

Mr Brown revealed yesterday he had, in fact, supported a delay in the abolition of duty free "all along". He took care to stress he did not want to raise false expectations, but insisted



Gordon Brown: Surprise announcement

Britain had always indicated its support for deferring the date of abolition beyond June 1999. A sympathetic gesture for the thousands of ferry and airport workers who fear their jobs are at risk? Or a shrewd political manoeuvre aimed at making friends in Bonn and Paris?

Some commentators have linked Mr Brown's eleven-hour bid to save booze cruises to Calais and defend the right of package holidaymakers to stock up on cheap cigarettes, to the storm over EU tax harmonisation. The diversionary move may have been directed

at gaining tabloid support at a time when *Sun* and *Express* readers have been bombarded with scare stories about alleged EU tax-raising threats.

To overturn the 1991 decision to abolish duty-free sales in June 1999 would take a unanimous decision of the 15 finance ministers - and the chances of this happening seem remote. Throwing its weight behind a popular issue, particularly one which will never happen, is a win-win move for the Government or even a cheap trick.

But it could happen. The balance has swung with the rise to power of Gerhard Schröder. He made duty-free retention an election issue. With Germany and France, and now Britain, on board for a delay of at least a few years, the chances of a qualified majority of finance ministers in favour of a reprieve have soared.

Of course, if Britain would agree to abandon the national veto on taxation matters, then there would not be a problem in saving duty free. The ultimate popular move would be for the Chancellor to slash excise rates on wine, beer and cigarettes to continental rates.

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Carelessness with a photocopier endangers political lives

FOR SOME time I've struggled with the notion that Labour backbenchers have to be spoon-fed if they are to be witty and incisive. Yesterday demonstrated that this impression may be utterly misleading, though. The truth is far worse. Labour backbenchers have to be spoon-fed if they are to be dull and predictable.

Due to someone's carelessness with a photocopier - and how easy it is to leave that last sheet under the flap if you're rushed - Tory MPs were all holding the same document as Francis Maude, the Conservative MP for Horsham and the shadow Chancellor, got up to speak. The

hasty scrawl across the right hand corner probably best conveys both what it was and what it meant to them. "Labour's proposed intervention on Francis", it read, "Recovered from a photocopier. Tee Hee!!" "Tee Hee!!" indeed. Not to mention "Chortle" and "Guffaw!!".

There is a convention during oral questions to ministers that MPs do not take up the House's time by laboriously repeating what is already written on the order paper. They simply get up and announce the number of their inquiry. "Question Number Six, Madam Speaker," says Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour MP for Islington North, and the min-

ister responsible sets off into the arid terrain of a prepared reply about the future of the Western Sahara.

Yesterday Opposition MPs, to their uncontained glee, were able to reverse this procedure.

So, up gets the unsuspecting Geraint Davies, the Labour MP for Croydon Central, to ask Mr Maude to give way. He is all eagerness. "Will the shadow Chancellor say whether he is in favour of Bank of England independence or against it? Yes or No?"

"Number Ten!" bellow the Tory backbenchers in unison, giving notice that the crib sheet is in gener-

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

al circulation. Inexperienced Labour goodie-goodies found themselves in a quandary. Francis

Maude is a temptingly easy target for ambitious backbench submarine commanders, wallowing heavily as he proceeds and armed only with light and inaccurate weaponry. How alluring he must have looked through the cross-hairs of their periscopes. But the sea-lanes had been mined with depth charges and already one of their comrades had gone down, leaving only a greasy swell behind him.

Set course in the wrong direction and "Boom!" the Opposition would explode again in mocking laughter.

Only Dale Campbell-Savours, the Labour MP for Worthington, had worked out a tactic to get

round the problem - by deliberate detonation. "Perhaps I can further develop Number Eight on the list," he began affably, and when the enormous splash of Tory hilarity had finally subsided, he released his torpedo: "He can't say he doesn't know the answer, because he's been given notice."

Not all MPs need their questions typed out for them. Earlier, MPs on both sides tried to press Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to declare that it was now policy to terminate President Saddam Hussein's political career with extreme prejudice. "Can't we be more robust," said one MP plaintively,

clearly longing for the moment when the boys from Hereford would be asked to "aid the opposition".

Mr Cook simply reiterated government determination to make Iraq comply with UN resolutions - at which point he was hit from behind by a low-flying dove. "What would be the point of bombing Baghdad, a city of four-and-a-half million people which has only two ambulances?" asked Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, gloomily. "Another Dresden?"

Judging from the asperity of Mr Cook's reply this intervention had not passed through the Millbank opinion mill.

Frank Field had to go, says Byers

FRANK FIELD "is probably no longer a minister" because he opposed government measures such as the Working Family Tax Credit, Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday.

Rebuking the former welfare reform minister, Mr Byers stressed during resumed debate on the Queen's Speech that Mr Field was "wrong" in his criticism of the scheme.

Mr Field, who was due to give a speech on welfare reform last night, resigned in the summer over the Government's refusal to introduce compulsory second pensions.

Opening the debate, Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, sabotaged attempts by Labour backbenchers to disrupt his speech when he produced a list of questions, headed "suggested interventions" allegedly issued to them. Mr Maude said the list, which was recovered from a Westminster photocopier, was another example of Tony Blair's administration being "control freaks".

The list included a series of challenges to Mr Maude over

QUEEN'S SPEECH

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Tory policy. "I fear Labour backbenchers are trying to ingratiate themselves with the control-freak tendency by asking prepared questions," said Mr Maude.

During his speech, Mr Byers dismissed "scaremongering" on European Union tax harmonisation, saying: "This Government has made it clear that we will not support any action at European level that will threaten jobs or the competitive position of British business. So any tax proposals will need to pass that acid test." He added: "If necessary, at the end of the day, we will be prepared to use our veto in order to protect the national interest."

He made clear there were "no detailed proposals" to change existing rates of VAT and said that, if there were, the Government would stick by its manifesto commitment to safeguard zero-rated goods.

On business taxes, Mr Byers said the political reality was that

harmonisation of rates across Europe was "a non-starter". "We would simply not allow corporation tax rates to be raised to the existing levels of some other countries."

But Mr Maude said that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had failed to protect personal taxes from being co-ordinated through the EU. "There is a clear commitment in Labour policy documents to taking further a process of tax co-ordination and harmonisation which can only have the effect of increasing Britain's taxes to continental levels," he said.

Malcolm Bruce, for the Liberal Democrats, said his party was disappointed that there were no measures in the Queen's Speech "to pave the way towards joining a successful single currency".

He continued: "I do not think an undertaking of this importance can be secured on a wing and a prayer. It requires a strategy and practical action to enable it to happen... We need leadership. We need a timetable. We need a strategy. We cannot simply drift."



Members of the Campaign for Leasehold Reform holding a mass rally outside the House of Commons in London yesterday

Lord Mayor's warning on tax

EU HARMONISATION
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

PLANS TO harmonise the withholding tax on savings income across the European Union would be "highly damaging" to its standing in the world financial markets and could drive business offshore, the Lord Mayor of London, Lord Levene of Portsoken, said yesterday.

But Lord Levene, a cross-bencher and chairman of Bankers Trust International, praised the Government for its determination to veto a draft directive, which would apply across the EU to savings income and to the eurobond market. "The rules for the single market must be drawn up so that Europe's financial business generally is not driven offshore and outside Europe altogether."

In the Lords, he urged the Commission and the EU presidency to "seek worldwide agreement on such changes first... That is the only way to avoid the damage across Europe that they would otherwise bring."

He added that the City Corporation would be introducing a Bill to reform the electoral system in the City, "to give the world's leading international centre the best and most efficient local government... anywhere in the world".

Cross-party group aims to liberalise law on abortion

A CROSS-PARTY group of MPs will be lining up tomorrow to introduce a backbench Bill to liberalise the abortion laws to enable doctors to offer women abortion on demand.

More than 60 MPs are hoping to pack the ballot of MPs to introduce a pro-abortion Bill.

If it is taken up by an MP in the first six places in the ballot, the storm over abortion could rival the disputes this year over banning fox hunting.

MPs whose names are pulled out of a hat in a Commons committee room, will be inundated with proposals for legislation by pressure groups.

BALLOT OF MPs

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

However, the failure of the Bill to ban fox hunting showed only non-controversial measures, often handed out by the Government, stand any real hope of reaching the Statute Book.

Campaigners against blood sports are likely to delay their bid for a second Bill to ban fox hunting until the Lords has been reformed.

The "Voice for Choice" group, led by Gareth Thomas, the Labour MP for Harrow West, tabled a Commons mo-

tion to mark the 30th anniversary of the Abortion Act, with the backing of 67 MPs, including the Tory Crispin Blunt and the Liberal Democrat Jenny Tonge. Supporting the Voice for Choice campaign, they said doctors with an ethical objection to abortion should be obliged to declare it and that abortion should be available throughout the UK on the request of a woman in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

But they are fiercely opposed by the cross-party Pro-Life group of MPs, who include Ann Widdecombe, the Tory spokeswoman on health, and

Tom Pendry, the former Labour frontbench spokesman on sport. A counter-motion by the group, led by Joe Benton, the Labour MP for Bootle, warned against liberalising the abortion laws. It claimed many young doctors have had their careers in gynaecology destroyed because of their objections to abortion.

It condemned the call to make it mandatory for all doctors to a conscientious objection to abortion to register their views, claiming it would strengthen the legal framework for a witch-hunt against those opposed to abortion.

Cook rejects bombing claim

THE FOREIGN Secretary, Robin Cook, angrily rejected claims by a Labour MP yesterday that air strikes on Baghdad would involve "Dresden-style" carpet bombing.

Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, said that any attack on the Iraqi capital could lead to dire consequences because of its lack of emergency services.

Mr Dalyell, a veteran opponent of Western military action against President Saddam Hussein, clashed with Mr Cook during Foreign Office Question Time in the Commons. He

IRAQ

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

said he was disturbed by repeated government warnings that it would strike against Iraq if there were any further delays over the UN inspection of the country's weapons sites.

"What would be the objective of bombing Baghdad - a city of 4.5 million people with two ambulances, neither of which has oxygen, and a fire engine that doesn't work, possibly - Dresden, perhaps?" Mr Dalyell said.

Mr Cook said that the House "would not expect me to disclose specific targeting plans" and withstood jeers from Tory MPs as he rejected further interventions from Mr Dalyell.

"The plans we developed take very careful account of the need to minimise, as far as possible, casualties and particularly civilian casualties," he said. "There is therefore no question of bombing Baghdad on the scale that you suggest."

Mr Cook said under a UN resolution pioneered by the UK, Saddam could export \$10bn

of oil to pay for the import of food, medicines and humanitarian goods. "There is, of course, absolutely no sanction to prevent Iraq importing all the ambulances it requires," he said.

"If he is that short of ambulances, we would be delighted to consider through the sanctions committee how many ambulances he needs, if he would choose to put them on the list he submits in place of some of the other claims for humanitarian goods he has made, such as glass ashtrays, cigarettes, alcohol and plastic surgery."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

New Deal costs

THE GOVERNMENT has spent nearly £12m on promoting the New Deal programme for the jobless, the Employment Minister Andrew Smith disclosed in a written reply, adding that the New Deal information line and website had received almost 150,000 responses.

Sleep study

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a pilot study into the effects of aircraft noise on people's sleep to determine

whether full-scale research into sleep loss or sleep prevention should be carried out, said the Transport Minister Glenda Jackson.

Trade inquiry

THE EUROPEAN Commission is investigating complaints of unfair trading on steel products coming from the countries of India, Iran, Taiwan, Bulgaria, South Africa and Yugoslavia, said the Trade and Industry Minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville.

Dictator warning

ANY "PINOCHETS of the future" should note Britain was committed to the International Criminal Court, the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said.

That the UK had agreed on Monday to ratify creation of the court sent "a strong signal to the Pinochets of the future", Mr Lloyd said.

Today's business

IN THE Commons: 9.30am. Backbench debates on compensation for vaccine damaged people, economic problems facing seaside holiday towns, aid for children

THE HOUSE



in Burundi. 2.30pm: Northern Ireland questions, questions to the Prime Minister, European parliamentary elections Bill, short debate on future of Hereford hospital. Lords 2.30pm: Queen's Speech debate, last day on health and home affairs.

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I found Nicky Clarke's Flexi-Style hair products so easy to use, letting me hang loose, get tight or be anyone I want to be. Unlike ordinary electric curlers, Nicky's Flexi-Style are long and flexible giving me more room to create perfect curls and waves. Nicky Clarke Hairmathery Style and Shine Serum gives me long-lasting style and unbeatable shine. A free trial size comes with your set of Flexi-Style. Nicky Clarke Hairmathery. The essence of beautiful hair.

Flexi-Style are available at ASDA, Boots, Currys and other leading retailers and mail order catalogues. Hairmathery products are available at Boots, Superdrug and all leading grocery, chemist and drug retailers.

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ONISATION
CHIEFER



The 50-stone wrestler Giant Haystacks (right), who has died of cancer, and Big Daddy, his long-time opponent, who died last year

Giant Haystacks dies from cancer

GIANT HAYSTACKS, one of the greatest stars of British wrestling - and certainly its largest - has died of cancer.

The showman, who stood almost seven foot, with a fighting weight of about 50 stone, was a symbol of an age when wrestling on ITV would attract millions of viewers on a Saturday afternoon before the football results.

In the good guy/bad guy theatre of wrestling he played an angry mountain of a man against his long-time opponent, Big Daddy, the kiddies' and grannies' favourite, who died last year.

Haystacks, 52, who said he never lost, would often be disqualified as his fights dissolved in uproar, while Kent Walton, the commentator, shouted hysterically. He dominated the ring from the moment of his slow entry, squeezing his bulk between the ropes.

But he was no great technician: the intricacies of the half-nelson, Boston crab and the flying headscissors were never the hallmark of a wrestler who relied on his bulk. Mick McManus, his one-time tag partner, said: "He preferred to pick a fella up, body-slam him on to the canvas and then dive on top of him. The chances of someone getting up were remote."

McManus, who retired in 1981, said Haystacks, real name Martin Ruane, was different in private. "He was quiet-spoken and he did not get perturbed outside the ring." A devout Roman Catholic from a Manchester Irish family, he refused to fight on Sundays.

Simon Garfield, author of *The Wrestling*, said he had a sense of humour. "He appreciated the ludicrousness of his size and in his occasional grudge tag matches with Big Daddy he would be paired with a tiny man and his opponent would also be tiny, adding to the comic effect as a man would run through Haystacks' legs and he would look dumb-founded." However, Garfield added, "Haystacks had his aggressive side. He said that wrestling was the only way he could get out all his pent-up anger without being arrested."

Haystacks was aggrieved when his sport was killed off by ITV's decision to take it off the air in 1988 because it was considered too downmarket for advertisers. So upset was Haystacks that he said, but for the law, he would have killed Greg Dyke, the executive responsible for the decision.

He continued to fight but the pay was sometimes just £50 an appearance. Two years ago he was stricken with cancer just after signing a contract to revive his career in the US with his Hollywood friend Hulk Hogan.

Giant Haystacks was at his Manchester home with his wife and childhood sweetheart, Rita, when he died on Sunday. He leaves three sons.

Pro-lifers call for boycott of Boots

ANTI-ABORTION campaigners were calling for a boycott of Boots the chemist last night after the high street chain announced it was opening a family planning clinic in one of its Glasgow stores.

Family values campaigners and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland reacted angrily to the proposed pilot scheme for a walk-in clinic. Valerie Richies, of Family and Youth Concern, said parents would be appalled that Boots, "thought of as an eminently sensible organisation", should be sending the signal to children: "Go out and have sex."

"This is abuse of children, not family planning," she said.

The scheme marks the first time in Britain family planning has been taken out of doctors' surgeries or specialist clinics and into a high street store. The twice-weekly clinic will be run in a private room at Boots' store in Glasgow's St Enoch's Centre, a busy shopping precinct. The service will be widely advertised in nightclubs, bars and university unions and there will also be an information point on the shop floor.

Both Boots and the Greater Glasgow Community and Mental Health Services NHS Trust strenuously deny that the move would encourage under-age sex. By making advice more accessible, they say they hope to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies. Since 1993, the number of pregnancies among 13 to 19-year-olds in Greater Glasgow has fallen from 1,916 to 1,724 per year. However, the number of 13 to 15-year-olds who became pregnant increased from 102 to 169.

Anne Marie McKay, director of the Family Planning Association Scotland, said young people

BY GLENDA COOPER
AND STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

ple who were sexually active or thinking about having sex often felt "intimidated" by ordinary services. There is no minimum age for those seeking advice, but the decision on whether to give out contraceptives will be for the doctor.

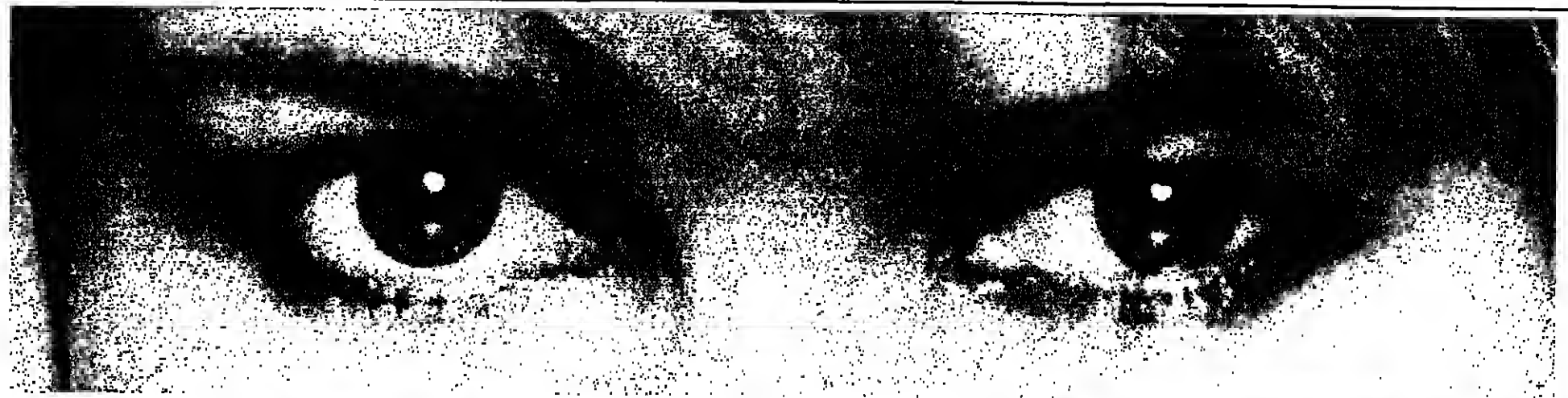
A trust spokeswoman said: "Individual clinicians have to take a decision on the maturity of the person they are seeing. It is certainly not pills on demand, however young."

Early findings from a study by the research unit for health and behavioural change at the University of Edinburgh show 31 per cent of 15-year-old boys in Scotland have had sex, compared with 37 per cent in 1994. The figure for girls remained constant at 36 per cent.

The survey of 2,500 Scottish 15-year-olds indicated school sex education was effective in providing information about the threat of Aids and other sexually transmitted infections but embarrassment was still stifling conversation at home about sex and relationships.

The initiative was announced on the same day as a survey showing teenagers in Britain fear pregnancy more than catching HIV and see condoms as a nuisance. Widespread ignorance about sexually transmitted diseases means that one in six young people thought wrongly that treatment for carriers of the Aids virus could stop them being infectious.

A survey by the Brook Advisory Centres, the sex advice charity, found that teenage boys in particular were promiscuous and willing to take risks.



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Sea resort sells sand to Arabs

A SEASIDE resort is in danger of losing its beach because the council is selling off too much sand, it was claimed yesterday.

The legendary race horse of the Seventies, Red Rum, exercised on the seven-mile beach at Southport, Merseyside, and thousands of tourists use it every year. But a dispute has broken out over extraction of the sand, which is sold for glass-making, foundries, pipe lining and aggregates and has even been shipped to Saudi Arabia.

Sefton Borough Council earns about £65,000 a year by selling up to 300,000 tons of sand - and claims it has no effect on the local environment. However, opponents of the extraction say it has caused the sand to be overtaken by mud and grasses

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

and should stop before the tourist industry is ruined.

A Liberal Democrat councillor, John Pugh, said: "The vast amount of sand extracted over the past decade correlates with the spread of mud and grasses... No one is sure about the cause and while there is an element of uncertainty surely it would be better not to risk further extraction."

Peter Swarbrick, a council spokesman, dismissed Mr Pugh's claims as "rubbish". The effects... have been going on for hundreds of years," he said. "Added to that, the whole beach area has risen six feet over 40 years, which is a huge amount of sand."

XSARA PRICES START FROM £11,940 ON THE ROAD. CAR SHOWN XSARA 1.8i 11V EXCLUSIVE, £15,170 ON THE ROAD (EXCLUDES OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT, £225). ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDE £275 FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES, 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE AND £25 GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE. 3 YEARS' 0% FINANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL XSARA MODELS. TYPICAL FINANCE EXAMPLE BASED ON XSARA 1.6i: ON THE ROAD PRICE, £11,940. DEPOSIT (20%), £2,388. 36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £265.33. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £11,940. CUSTOMER APR, 0%. FINANCE AVAILABLE TO OVER 18s ONLY AND SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCE, VERNON HOUSE, SIGILLAN AVENUE, LONDON WC2A 9QJ. FINANCE OFFER APPLIES TO RETAIL REGISTRATIONS OF NEW XSARA MODELS ORDERED AND REGISTERED BETWEEN 1.12.98 AND 31.12.99. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF PRESS. PASSENGER AND LATERAL AIRBAGS STANDARD ON MODELS BUILT AFTER 1.6.98.

Councils plan 'will cripple poorest areas'

TOUGH NEW powers to deter councils from imposing big tax rises will be unveiled by the Government today amid fears by Labour MPs that the move will cripple Britain's poorest areas.

The policy of penalising authorities that propose large rises will be unveiled by John Prescott when he announces the annual local government settlement in the Commons. The Deputy Prime Minister will announce a £2.3bn funding package to keep tax rises down to 4.5 per cent, equivalent to £30 for an average home. But he will also insist there will be no return to the days of "tax and spend" of profligate councils and will announce a new power to deter large rises.

Council tax benefit subsidy will be withheld from town halls that raise bills above guideline levels drawn up by Whitehall. The subsidy is worth millions to local authorities and is vital for cities such as Liverpool and Leeds, where up to 40 per cent of residents claim the benefit.

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

The Government's determination to control council spending, which at £50bn makes up a quarter of all public spending, was shown yesterday with publication of the Local Government Bill. It abolishes universal capping of town hall budgets, but Mr Prescott will retain reserve powers to cap the worst offenders - measures that critics of the new penalties have dubbed "capping through the back door".

Labour council leaders and MPs reacted with fury to the proposals, with some describing them as "regressive" and "an attack on the poor".

Sir Jeremy Beecham, the Labour chairman of the Local Government Association, which represents all authorities in England and Wales, said he would lodge strong protests with the Government.

"We are extremely unhappy about this. It is very unwelcome, as it hits the poorest authorities hardest and is going to make

matters worse. It further distorts the link between local spending decisions and council tax decisions. It is not capping but it is as good as and I suspect the hand of the Treasury in it."

Yesterday Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, said council taxpayers would not face "excessive" increases in their bills. "We don't believe there will be excessive council tax rises. I cannot imagine councils want to behave in a massively irresponsible way. But if they do we will have to intervene."

Paul Burstow, the Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said that if councils ignored the proposed benefit penalties, cities such as Liverpool could see a rise of £180 on their bills; Manchester would see a rise of £205 and Islington a rise of £156 if the subsidy were withdrawn. "This really is another example of the Government's control freakery. It is incredible that a Labour government is effectively attacking the poorest in urban areas."



Two rivals for the job of elected Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone and Jeffrey Archer, enjoying coffee and cake yesterday

David Rose

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.



If you tell your
girlfriend,
will she think
less of you?

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD DYKES
A REVEREND CHARTY

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is

the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

We'll go through it with you.

Dispute over boundary 'led to libel'

BY CATHY GORDON

A HIGH Court jury was asked yesterday to award damages to a former Labour councillor and his wife who claim they were the victims of a case of "boundary rage" that culminated in a neighbour writing "grossly libellous" letters about them.

Graham Rush, a market operator, and his wife, Barbara, of Kidmore End, near Reading, Berkshire, are suing Dagmar Coward, a teacher, over two letters she circulated on a "large scale" containing allegations of assault and lying to police.

The couple's counsel, Harry Boggis-Rolfe, told the court that Mrs Coward had allowed the boundary dispute to become an "obsession". He said that after Mr and Mrs Rush moved next door to Mrs Coward in 1989 trouble flared between them over "trivial matters".

In 1993 Mr and Mrs Rush got planning permission to build an extension. Mr Boggis-Rolfe said that after a "fracas" on 5 October 1994, as Mr Rush and his builder were attempting to

work on the extension, Mrs Coward went "completely out of control". She was later convicted of assaulting Mr and Mrs Rush by wiping her bloody hands on them and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge. Her subsequent appeal against the conviction was later dismissed.

Mr Boggis-Rolfe said that in May 1996, Mrs Coward circulated two "highly damaging" letters containing "most dreadful" allegations about the couple.

In the first open letter she accused Mr Rush of assaulting her. She claimed he caused her wrongful arrest, prosecution and conviction by lying and also accused Mrs Rush of lying.

In her second letter, Mrs Coward accused Mr Rush and his "accomplice" Mrs Rush of committing "criminal" acts against her.

Mrs Coward, now of Headington, Oxford, denies libel. The case continues today.



Philip Carvill with the detection aid Neville Elder

TV aid traces licence cheats

BY PAUL PEACHEY

HUNDREDS OF television licence officers started patrols yesterday with new hand-held machines that can detect magnetic radiation given off by sets from a range of 100 feet.

TV Licensing, which runs the system for the BBC, said it hoped the threat of the new technology would encourage the estimated 1.5 million licence evaders to buy a £97.50 colour licence in the run-up to the Christmas viewing boom.

The equipment is the result of three years' research. It can detect a switched-on television whether it is receiving cable, terrestrial or satellite programmes and weighs only one-tenth of earlier models, making it easier to sweep high-rise blocks, for example.

TV Licensing said it was

likely to catch more dodgers than the 200,000 snared over the past six months. The maximum fine for evasion is £1,000.

Detector vans have also been fitted with new portable computers to check with a central database whether a householder has a licence.

TV Licensing said about 1,000 evaders were caught each day by its 400 officers even though at the end of September there were a record 22 million licence holders.

Simon Ablitt, director of field operations for the organisation, said: "This new equipment will be quicker and easier and more effective. If people don't heed the warnings, the number we catch will go up."

Young people feel 'trapped in limbo'

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

YOUNG PEOPLE in Britain and the rest of Europe feel trapped in a "protracted limbo" between childhood and adulthood, unable to take on responsibilities. Job insecurity and longer periods of education and training mean they find it hard to envisage a settled family life, according to a study of 18 to 30-year-olds.

The study, from the Work-Life Research Centre, says young people are aware a "job for life" is now an impossible dream, although they expect a reasonable amount of security and opportunities to develop their skills and employability.

An emerging "psychological contract" between the young and employers also involves an expectation on the part of workers that there will be flexible working hours to leave time for interests and obligations outside work.

Respondents in Britain, the Republic of Ireland, Norway, Portugal and Sweden disliked the "long hours culture". That was particularly evident in the UK and Portugal.

Women's and men's expectations seem to be converging. Women in all groups expected employment to be part of their current and future lives and men said they hoped to share family responsibilities.

Many women, however, said men's aspirations might not match their practical contri-

INSECURE WORK					
Fixed term contracts, % (1997)					
	UK	Ireland	Portugal	Sweden	Norway
Employees under 25	13	19	26	42	35*
All employees	7	10	10	14	12

* Mainly students working part-time during school holidays

Youth unemployment % (1995)					
	UK	Ireland	Portugal	Sweden	Norway
15 to 19-year-olds	17.3	27.7	15.6	21.2	6.0
20 to 24-year-olds	14.5	16.0	16.1	18.3	7.0

Completed upper secondary education % (1997)					
	UK	Ireland	Portugal	Sweden	Norway
25 to 29-year-olds	57	66	35	90	89

Source: Eurostat Labour Force Survey, Norwegian National Bureau of Statistics

bution to domestic life. The more educated men were more likely to say they wanted to participate fully in childcare, while young men in blue-collar jobs in all countries except Sweden tended to be less committed.

Attitudes to work-family arrangements were influenced both by family background and national policies. "Countries which provide childcare and parental leave are also those where young people have the most supportive views of working mothers and institutional childcare."

In all countries young women had high employment aspirations but, in countries with little childcare support, they were sceptical about the feasibility of combining motherhood and employment.

Job insecurity emerged as a main area of concern in all five countries. "The changing

labour market and in particular the increase in insecure work, whether perceived or actual, creates tensions."

Expectations of support from the state or employers to combine work and family life varied throughout the five

countries. Respondents in Britain held out little hope of much backing. The authors argued that the growth in temporary contracts could undermine policies aimed at supporting parents who want to combine work with a family.

The researchers, from Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Education, London, challenged employers and policy-makers to consider the implications of their findings. Uncertainties in young people's lives meant it might be difficult to find a committed and effective workforce.

Most young people could not imagine a role for trade unions in reconciling jobs and domestic responsibilities. The report, however, said there was an opportunity for unions to involve and support more young people by taking on board their family-work concerns.



President Roman Herzog of Germany in the Queen's Coronation Coach at the start of a UK visit yesterday. AP

Royal medical colleges 'just cosy clubs'

THE ROYAL medical colleges are "toothless tigers" and "cosy clubs", claiming to safeguard the public while in reality promoting the interests of their own members, says the president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Robert Kendell warns the colleges they must take action to respond to a succession of scandals that have shaken public confidence in the medical profession.

Writing in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, Professor Kendell says that while in the past the position of the colleges has been "unassailable", recent events have exposed their limitations.

He says a series of scandals - including breast and cervical screening problems, alcoholic surgeons who were allowed to continue operating and the "awful saga" of cardiac surgery in Bristol - revealed that all too often colleagues were aware of problems but did nothing to stop incompetent practitioners. "It has become clear... that the colleges lack the power and perhaps the stomach to discipline those senior members of their fraternity who are no longer functioning competently," he writes.

He said that none of the scandals had so far involved psychiatry but that was probably because the nature of psychiatric practice does not lend itself to easy detection of incompetence and patients' lives are not put at immediate risk.

While the colleges see themselves as the guardians of standards, in reality once a doctor

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

is a member or a fellow all the college can do is issue guidelines that doctors do not have to follow.

"The fact is at present all the medical colleges are toothless tigers," the professor says. "Neither consultants nor their employers need pay any attention to the colleges' statements about clinical standards or minimum staffing levels if they do not want to. Even the ultimate and rarely used sanction of expulsion... is little more than a symbolic gesture."

Professor Kendell says the colleges face a "stark choice" and "time is not on our side". The first choice is to retreat into postgraduate training and abandon pretensions to guarding standards, in which case their prestige and influence would rapidly wane.

The other way would be to nail their colours to the mast over clinical standards. But in doing that "they would be committing themselves to criticising and indirectly imposing sanctions upon their own members and fellows" and risk alienating those they criticise.

However, Professor Kendell adds that while in the past the colleges have had it both ways, as "cosy clubs" and guardians of standards, this is no longer possible. "The colleges have to decide explicitly and publicly whether when a conflict arises they exist to further the interests of patients or doctors," he concludes.

MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

THINK FOR a moment what you're actually going to do in the few days before and after the weekend beginning on 1 January 2000. Given that some people are predicting problems caused by the millennium bug, perhaps you have planned to fill up the car with petrol and withdraw some extra cash - or maybe all of it? Ever thought millions of other people will have had exactly the same thought?

That is the sort of scenario that already worries Jon Fullinwider, chief information officer for Los Angeles County, the largest county government in the world. "If everybody decides on the last week of 1999 to go out and fill his or her gas [petrol] tank, there isn't enough gas to do that. If everybody decides



they want to take \$500 from their ATM, there isn't enough cash," he said.

"If everybody wanted to go out and buy an extra supply of groceries, there aren't enough groceries. Our whole thing is supply and demand. We need to be careful that we manage this and we don't go into the hysteria."

So if you're going to panic, do it nice and early. And pay with your credit card.

CHARLES ARTHUR

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Convicted solicitors not struck off

AT LEAST six solicitors convicted of criminal offences have been allowed to continue practising by the disciplinary arm of the Law Society. The solicitors had committed crimes including possessing child pornography, assault and fraud, yet the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal judged that they should not be struck off the rolls.

Legal experts and police officers expressed shock at the

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

findings, which were made in a study of the results of the tribunal's latest 200 hearings.

The study, details of which will be broadcast in a *Dispatches* documentary on Channel 4 tomorrow, also found that 78 solicitors, found to have misused their clients' money, were not struck off.

Michael Zander QC, a professor of law at the London School of Economics, said: "I'd rather assumed, as I think most solicitors assume, that any improper handling of client monies will automatically lead to you being struck off."

Of the solicitors in the survey, 54 were making at least their second appearance before the tribunal and 39 had been fined at their previous appearance.

The study revealed that 21 of the 39 were fined again but were still not struck off.

The survey will increase pressure for reform of the way the legal profession is regulated.

Even Barrie Marsh, the president of the tribunal, was surprised by the findings. "I'm amazed by that," he said of one of the cases. "Criminal offences involving dishonesty - I would

be amazed if the solicitor was not struck off."

Among the cases featured in the survey was that of a Croydon solicitor, Terry Mitchell, who was allowed to continue practising by the tribunal, despite having served a jail sentence for a building society fraud. He was eventually struck off after an appeal.

Other solicitors who have recently been allowed to continue

working include Patrick Macavoy, from Slough, Berkshire, who was fined £1,500 for possession of child pornography earlier this year. Indra Maharaj, a north London solicitor, was convicted of an attempted mortgage fraud last year, but was allowed by the tribunal to keep practising after it was said the conviction had almost driven her to suicide.

The workload of the Office

for the Supervision of Solicitors, which receives complaints about solicitors and decides whether they should be referred on to the tribunal, has doubled in the past two years to about 40,000 complaints a year. Less than 1 per cent of complaints are passed to the tribunal and receive a public hearing.

Martin Mears, a former president of the Law Society,

said: "I think of the reputation of solicitors and it's bad for our reputation that our shop window body, the OSS, deals with complaints in the way that it does."

Dispatches also reveals details of a Law Society study on the OSS. It found that half the 300 complainants gave the OSS a rating of between zero and three out of ten for the way their complaint was handled.

Parma ham can be sliced and packed in Britain, court rules

BY DARIUS SANAI

THE COURT of Appeal struck a blow yesterday for the democratisation of high-class food when it ruled that Asda could sell out-price Parma ham sliced and packaged in this country.

In a move that should be welcomed by all aficionados of *prosciutto con melone*, the court ruled that the famously jealous Italian association of Parma ham producers had no right to stop the supermarket chain buying the ham in Italy and chopping and labelling the delicacy elsewhere.

"This is a victory not only for Asda, but also for the consumer," an Asda spokesman said. Its policy of buying in bulk in Italy made it possible to sell the ham cheaper than any of its competitors, he said. Asda celebrated by setting up a Parma ham stall outside the court in London and offering samples to passers-by.

The decision overturned what had been a victory for the Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma earlier this year, when the High Court ruled that European Commission rules designed to prevent other

DISPUTES OVER NAMES

Other products with controversial names: **Elderflower champagne.** Thorncroft Vineyard, a British producer of fizzy, fermented elderflower wine, lost its campaign to label its product Elderflower champagne in 1993 after the French Champagne Producers' Association went to the Court of Appeal. **Sherry.** Makers of Bristol Cream and other British "sherries" are no longer allowed to use the name after lawsuits in Spain led to a strict definition of who can put the label on the drink. Sherry is made in the Jerez region of

Spain; anything else is fortified wine. **Cheddar cheese.** Residents of the Somerset village of Cheddar Gorge were dismayed when in 1996 Brussels said cheddar cheese was so ubiquitous its origin could not be specified. **Haute Provence wine.** The wines of the Haute Provence vineyard in South Africa are labelled "Product of South Africa". French winemakers and the European Union this year forced the vineyard to change its name, to Augusta, because its wines might be confused with those produced in France.

producers from cashing in on regional specialties also applied to Asda's case.

In a porcine soundbite, Justin King, Asda's deputy trading director, gloated: "[The consortium's] argument that slicing and packing this ham in the UK makes it in some way

less genuine took a real hammering in court."

The decision opens up the possibility of Asda's competitors following suit, leading to a general reduction in the price of a product that sells for about £13 a pound.

The dry-cured, salty ham,

hung for up to 12 months, has been produced in the Parma region since Roman times, and strict rules govern the rearing of the pigs and its sale, with the consortium launching dozens of legal actions a year to protect its producers from foreign rivals.

The court refused the consortium leave to appeal to the House of Lords, although it can still apply to the law lords for that right. Given the determination with which the Italian organisation has pursued pretenders from France, Spain, Germany and the United States, such a move cannot be

ruled out, although Asda's case is different in that its ham is made and cured in Parma.

But some porcophiles will be unaffected by yesterday's decision. One school of continental gourmet thought holds that Parma ham has become over-commercialised and the real

thing is the subtler, nuttier San Daniele ham from the hills of Alto-Adige, near the Austrian border. And for others, prosciutto is ham-fisted in its flavours compared with Spain's jamon serrano - similarly cured but made from pigs fed on acorns instead of Parma's whey.



L'Terroni delicatessen in Clerkenwell, London, selling hams from Parma, northern Italy

Tom Pilston

Libel lawyer's free offer

BY IAN BURRELL

HARD-UP DEFAMATION victims will be able to call on the services of the country's best-known libel lawyers, Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, who are offering to take on cases on a "no win, no fee" basis.

Until now, many people have feared to challenge rich media organisations because actions are often long and costly. Mr Carter-Ruck said he had been campaigning for 30 years to make defamation actions more widely available.

Such actions have always been outside the legal aid budget but the opportunity for fighting them emerged with the introduction of the Conditional Fee Agreement Order in June.

Under the terms of such an arrangement, clients would have to pay only the firm's professional fees if they won their case, with 25 per cent of any compensation. If the case is lost, the professional fees are waived, although the losing client would still be liable for the costs of the defending side. A Law Society spokesman said the arrangement would be most useful to hard-up plaintiffs with straightforward cases.

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A Muscovite holding a fish he just caught through the ice of the Moskva river in Moscow yesterday. In the background is Russia's government building
AP/Alexander Zemlianichenko

Blair and Chirac in defence pact

A BLUEPRINT for a European-wide defence policy is expected to be agreed by Tony Blair and Jacques Chirac at a two-day Anglo-French summit in St Malo tomorrow and Friday.

The outline agreement could eventually allow the EU to take over responsibility for defence from the Western European Union, its fledgling defence arm. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, meet their French counterparts in Paris today to pave the way for the two leaders' historic agreement.

The three-pronged "statement of principles" will cover: ensuring the EU punches its weight in the world on foreign and security policy; a new, effective decision-making process; and an enhanced defence capability. Last night British sources said the two countries were on course for agreement

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND IMRE KARACS
in Potsdam

but admitted there were outstanding issues still to be resolved over the role of Nato. Britain is insisting that the new EU defence plans must not undermine Nato or create a "Nato mark two" but France has traditionally been more lukewarm about the organisation.

Germany and France meanwhile found much to disagree over at their summit in Potsdam yesterday, but Britain again presented them with an opportunity to sound alike. This time, however, unlike previous instances of unity forged in the face of the common enemy, they outbid each other in singing Tony Blair's praises.

President Jacques Chirac had come to Potsdam deeply impressed by Downing Street's recent volte-face over the "Eu-

ropean defence identity". Until now, Britain wanted none of it, much to the chagrin of French leaders. But Mr Blair's endorsement of the idea of a broader European defence role within the West European Union gave France and Germany something to celebrate.

It also gave their leaders something to put in their joint declaration. "We shall seek ways to allow the European Union to have operational capabilities which it had lacked until now," they said.

But defence also highlighted the distance between Paris and Bonn, and the proximity of Britain to the Germans. Fed up with French prevarication, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder told President Chirac that the German defence industry was ready to forge closer ties with Britain's, and France risked missing the boat. The German aerospace giant Dasa is plan-

ning a merger with Bt Aerospace to create a cor that can compete with Alca's best. France's Aerospace is also supposed to join Europe-wide alliance, but application has been held up because it is still partly controlled by the government. France was told yesterday that more delays will be allowed.

Despite many brave words the Franco-German axis also stuck to the key issue of EU reform, needed to prepare the community for its own expansion.

Germany says it wants to conclude Agenda 2000, the form blueprint, at a special summit it will organise in its presidency in March.

Meanwhile, the timetable for the EU's eastward enlargement is slipping. Not the French President is prepared to name a date for new members' accession.

Ministers give Mugabe visit the brush-off

BRITAIN was preparing a chilly welcome and an equally sharp dressing down last night for President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, currently taking time away from his problem-racked country for a private visit to London.

Normally, a foreign head of state and government visiting Britain, even at short notice, would expect to be received by the Prime Minister, or, at the very least, by the Foreign Secretary.

This time, however, a request from the Zimbabwean side for a meeting drew nothing more than an offer of talks on Friday with Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister.

Officially, the reason is the tight schedules of Tony Blair and Robin Cook, both busy with meetings abroad and important parliamentary engagements.

No less plainly, however, Britain is signalling its disapproval of Mr Mugabe's policies, and the plight they have brought upon his country.

Foreign Office officials confirmed that, in the unlikely event that the meeting with Mr Lloyd went ahead, the minister

By RUPERT CORNWELL

would raise a host of concerns about the growing social unrest in Zimbabwe, the peremptory expropriation of 841 mostly white-owned farms, human rights abuses and the involvement of a reported 6,000 Zimbabwean troops in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, helping President Laurent Kabila to fend off a Tutsi uprising in the east.

Before arriving in Britain moreover, Mr Mugabe flouted United Nations sanctions by flying to Tripoli for talks with Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, whom he is believed to have asked for help in shorting up Zimbabwe's crumbling finances after a 50 per cent plunge in its currency against the US dollar this year.

However, Mr Lloyd told the Commons yesterday that, for all its complaints, Britain would not cut aid to Zimbabwe.

"Our assistance goes to the poorest people in Zimbabwe," he told Tory critics. "If you think British project aid would be replaced by Zimbabwean government assistance, you are simply wrong."

UK campaigns to indict Saddam

A WORLDWIDE campaign to prosecute President Saddam Hussein and 11 other Iraqi leaders on war crimes and genocide charges was launched in London yesterday.

The International Campaign to Indict Iraqi War Criminals (Indict), which is backed by \$3m (£1.85m) from the United States Congress, vowed to use international law to bring the Iraqi regime to justice.

Indict, which is based in London but will set up offices in New York, Paris and Moscow over the next year, received support from Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton as it was launched formally in the House of Commons yesterday.

The pressure group re-

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

vealed it had already begun proceedings against President Saddam's half-brother, Barzan Al Tikriti, but he fled to Baghdad when he discovered the move last week.

Mr Tikriti, the Iraqi ambassador to the UN in Geneva, is one of 11 leading members of the Baathist regime named by Indict yesterday on its "wanted" list of those guilty of crimes against humanity.

The group's chairwoman, Ann Clwyd MP, said that as well as bringing proceedings itself, the organisation would lead the drive for a special UN tribunal to try the Iraqi President.



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Surprisingly ordinary prices





Children playing near a barricade outside a church in Jakarta yesterday. There are fears of rising tit-for-tat violence in Indonesia after attacks on places of worship by both Christian and Muslim mobs. Charles Dharamapala

One Nation MP 'is not an Australian'

THE SOLE parliamentary representative of the Australian anti-immigration party, One Nation, may be unable to take up the seat she won two months ago because she is insufficiently Australian.

Heather Hill, originally from Britain but who has lived in Australia for 26 years, held dual citizenship at the time of the 3 October poll in Queensland. She now faces court action instigated by a Sydney businessman, Chuck Hong, who does not believe she is entitled to enter the legislature.

Article 44 of Australia's constitution states that candidates must take "reasonable steps" to ensure their allegiances are to their adopted country only. The Supreme Court disqualified two candidates in a 1992 by-election, one from Italy and one from Spain, because they had failed to renounce their former nationality. Since this stern in-

terpretation of the rules, parties have been more careful to ensure that candidates are in a position to claim that they are, as one senator put it, "Dinky-Di Australian".

Exactly who was entitled to this distinction was revived by One Nation's president, Pauline Hanson, its only member of the last parliament. In her maiden speech in the House of Representatives, after the 1996 election, she stunned her fellow politicians when she said: "I believe we are in danger of being swamped by Asians. They have a different religion, a different culture and they do not assimilate."

Mr Hong came to Sydney from Malaysia 30 years ago, and now speaks with an irreproachably "fair dinkum" ac-



Pauline Hanson (left) and Heather Hill are facing an election challenge

cent. At a news conference, yesterday, he said: "The rules apply to me and they apply to you and to all other Australians. That is the Australian way."

Mr Hong would have petitioned the court but he does not live in Queensland. So he persuaded Jimmy Sue, a Chinese-born Kung Fu grandmaster and teacher to put his name to the legal action.

There was a deadline of today for launching a legal

challenge to the election results. Mr Hong explained that he was stepping in where the National Party, the junior partner in the governing coalition, had stepped back, citing more important things on which to spend its money.

Ms Hill, interviewed at her Queensland home, pronounced herself "very hurt. I'm a very loyal Australian," she said, and added that she had now renounced her British citizenship, although there was no recognition in the constitution of retrospective action.

A constitutional expert, Tony Blackshield, sketched out one intriguing scenario to the public broadcaster ABC. If Ms Hill were disqualified, there would be a recount of the Senate votes from Queensland, which works on a party list system.

The result would almost certainly be for the number two on One Nation's list to be elected. If the party wanted to secure its original choice of representative, the second person could resign the seat, and Ms Hill - or anyone else - could then be renominated by the Queensland parliament.

Sainsbury's gifts for kids. (Hands off Dad.)



IT SOUNDS like a scene from a Bruce Lee film, or perhaps one of the wackier Monty Python episodes: rival gangs of martial arts monks beating up one another, throwing one another down the stairs and bombarding one another with potted plants, stones, petrol bombs and fire extinguishers. But this was the scene yesterday in Seoul, the South Korean capital, after 12 hours' fighting between members of the country's biggest Buddhist sect.

By the time it had died down at dawn, 40 people had been injured, some seriously, during the worst battle yet in a civil war in the Chogye Temple.

Late on Monday 2,000 monks of the Chogye sect gathered from all over the country to seize control of their administrative headquarters from 800 dissidents who occupied it three weeks ago.

Several thousand riot police looked on as the attackers turned over a lorry and used a bulldozer to clear a barricade of logs in front of the building. Shielding themselves with panels of wood, the attackers reached the first floor, but were beaten back by a rain of stones, petrol bombs, hoses and fire extinguishers. Elderly members of the temple's congregation attempting to separate and pacify the two sides came to blows with the monks, who shouted at them to go home.

The violence began last month after the sect's "executive chief", the Venerable Song Wol Ju, announced his intention to stand for re-election to the position. His opponents objected that this was against the rules: according to the sect's constitution, an incumbent abbot is not allowed to serve more than two terms, and the Venerable Song was proposing to stand for a third time. But his supporters say his first term, a six-month stint in the 1980s, did not count - after falling out with South Korea's

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

then military rulers, he fled the country, cutting short his tenure. In any case, the rule about a third term was passed only in 1994, after he had been elected for the second time.

On 11 November, the night before the election, a dissident group, the "Committee for Purification", stormed the headquarters, ejecting the Songist forces. The election was cancelled and the chief monk said he had changed his mind about standing.

But the occupation has continued, despite an initial attempt to retake the temple a fortnight ago. "Those religious figures who are supposed to set good spiritual examples for ordinary people are only showing their vulgar humanity," wrote the Korea Times under the headline "Shame on Buddhist Monks". "One cannot help but shake one's head in dismay on seeing the violence."

But there is a lot at stake in the leadership of the Chogye sect, founded on principles of meditation and contemplation 1,000 years ago during Korea's Koryo period.

As head of the order the chief monk commands a budget of \$10m (\$6.2m) a year; 1,700 appointments are his to make. The local monastic chiefs he chooses manage substantial properties owned by the order. "The rival monks are proving themselves to be the stereotypical greedy monks," the Korea Times said. "As [one] saying puts it, 'They are indifferent to the prayers to Buddha. They are only interested in the rice offered to Buddha.'"

The dispute is bringing relief to a small corner of the economy, ravaged by the Asian currency crisis. Hotels and restaurants near the temple are enjoying a boom with the patronage of the angry monks and hundreds of "bodyguards" hired to do their dirty work.

IN BRIEF

Russian doubts on death penalty

THE RUSSIAN government may rescind its pledge to ban capital punishment as it tries to combat the country's soaring lawlessness. Russia promised to scrap the death penalty in January 1996 when it joined the Council of Europe. The government says there have been no executions since August of that year.

Cuba brings back Christmas

CUBA'S RULING Communist Party proposed the permanent reinstatement of Christmas Day as a public holiday. It dropped the traditional holiday in 1969 during attempts to produce a record sugar harvest that season.

Joint mission to find Mars rocks

FRANCE AND the United States plan a joint mission to send a robot to Mars to examine the planet's structure and bring back rock samples, the French Education and Research Ministry said yesterday. The rocket would blast off in August 2005 from French Guiana, and reach its orbit around Mars in July 2006.

Poll setback for Quebec's separatists

BY DAVID USBORNE
in Montreal

A FURTHER period of constitutional uncertainty and possible confrontation was ushered in for all Canadians yesterday after the separatist Parti Québécois was re-elected to govern the province of Quebec. The victory was less convincing than many had expected. While the Parti Québécois, led by Loucico Bouchard, maintained a powerful majority in the share of seats in the provincial assembly, it came slightly behind the opposition Liberal Party in the popular vote.

The mixed outcome means that Mr Bouchard is unlikely to proceed quickly to a snap referendum on the secession of Quebec from Canada. Had he achieved a landslide win, a new referendum - the last one, in 1995, ended with the separatists losing by a minuscule margin - could have come within months.

With all the ballots counted after Monday's election, the Parti Québécois won 75 of the assembly seats against 48 taken by the Liberal Party, headed by Jean Charest. But in the popular vote, the Liberals did much better than most polls had forecast, registering 43.62 per cent, just ahead of 42.94 for Mr Bouchard's party.

Mr Bouchard remains committed to achieving independence for Quebec and technically has the mandate to call a referendum at any time during the new five-year term of his government. Throughout the campaign, he pledged to seek a referendum only when he was sure of victory.

Mr Bouchard told his supporters: "We will still assemble the winning conditions necessary for the sovereignty of Quebec. Our first priority is to advance Quebec and to push it further towards its destiny."

In the federal capital of Ottawa, the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, warned that he will be ready to fight any new attempt to gain independence by Mr Bouchard.

"When the time comes to defend Canada, we will be there every step of the way," he said.

Battle will be joined early when the provinces attempt in the new year to conclude a "social union" pact with Ottawa. The proposed arrangement, championed by Mr Bouchard, is designed to curtail federal government's ability to determine social spending in the provinces.

Instead, the provinces take the federal cash but it as they pleased.

Regarded in Ottawa as one more bid by the province to devolve power central government, the union negotiations are expected to be fraught. If the proposal fails, it may mean Mr Bouchard the opportunity once more to Quebec nationalism.

Moodier's Quebecers are being read as a sign of fervour for separation since 1995. Polls during the campaign indicated that as many of 70 per cent Quebecers were opposed to the holding of another referendum on the subject.

In his concession speech Charest said: "The result tonight reflects the fact that people of Quebec and a people of Canada want country of ours to work as a success."

One surprise of the election was the 11.8 per cent share for the splinter Action Directe party, led by 28-year-old Mario Dumont. His party, which supports a stronger Quebec but not outright separation, drained votes from both other parties but won only one seat in the assembly.



Parti Québécois supporters react prematurely as initial results are posted at an election rally on Monday in Quebec. AP/Fred Chartrand

Clinton impeachment hearings 'hijacked by extremists'

THE WHITE House and the committee considering the impeachment of President Bill Clinton locked horns again yesterday after the decision of the committee to extend its inquiry to the President's alleged involvement in illegal fundraising for the Democratic Party. The decision, which entails summonses for the head of the FBI, Louis Freeh, the Attorney-General, Janet Reno,

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

and the President himself, takes the proceedings well beyond the territory covered by the independent prosecutor's report into the Monica Lewinsky affair.

The White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said the move to broaden the investigation showed the committee

had been "hijacked by extremists" whose only aim was to damage Mr Clinton.

"Despite all the protestations that this was a narrowly focused process looking at what was in the referral [Kenneth Starr's report on the Lewinsky affair], what it really is a partisan process designed to damage the President and ... investigate the President on any subject that they see fit."

To some legal specialists, allegations that the President flouted rules on fund-raising are potentially more dangerous to him - and could lead more directly to impeachment - than charges that he lied, even under oath, about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky. But a series of criminal and congressional inquiries have so far turned up no conclusive proof.

Mr Lockhart's onslaught

about the extension of the impeachment inquiry came only hours after the committee chairman, Henry Hyde, had launched a withering attack of his own on Mr Clinton's replies to the 81 questions on the Lewinsky affair set by his committee. Mr Hyde said that the answers, in which Mr Clinton had insisted that, while he did wrong, he did nothing that was either illegal or impeachable,

had "made very clear he is going to stick with his reliance on bizarre technical definitions and legalistic defences".

The two chief witnesses at yesterday's session were a former woman basketball coach, Pam Parsons, from Atlanta, who was convicted of perjury after admitting she lied under oath about a visit to a gay bar at a time when she was suing a magazine for defamation,

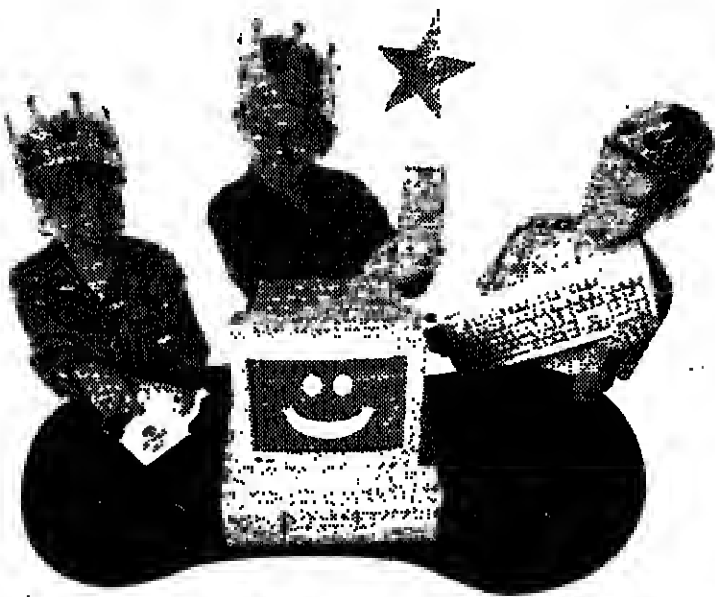
and Barbara Battalino, a former government psychologist, whose case has frequently been cited for its apparent parallels with Mr Clinton's.

Ms Battalino was convicted of obstruction of justice, fined and sentenced to six months' "house detention" after admitting she lied when she denied performing oral sex on a Vietnam veteran in her charge. The perjury, which happened in

a civil case, related to a suit over federal property.

Under questioning in committee members yesterday, both women stressed they had been justly punished and that perjury had "consequences".

Both lost their jobs, and they emphasised yesterday also lost their professional licences to practise and their reputations.



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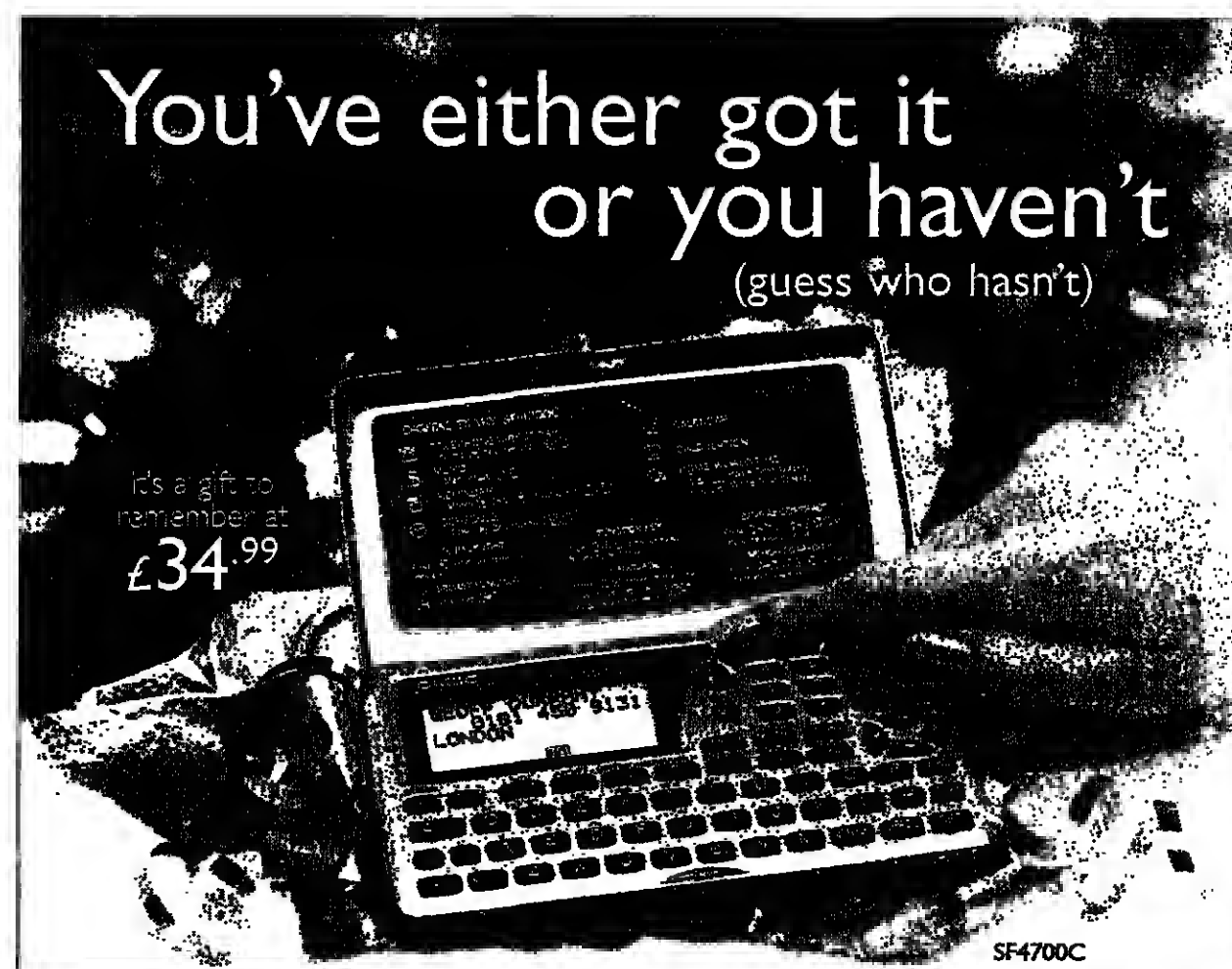
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Hurricane experts admit they failed

JAR'S hurricane season ended yesterday, tropical not only for the so who died and hundreds who lost mes. It was a disaster weather forecasters. season was kind of a call for us. We can do better than we are doing."

Hugh Willoughby, based director of the States Hurricane Re- Centre. Noting that ne Mitch's devastation used mostly by floods slides, not by its winds, d. "We focused on wind vov it's time for a new n."

to be an urgent new di- according to leading ne expert William Gray, rado State University. predicts an equally bad next year.

Willoughby, experts at tional Hurricane Centre b Miami - and top fore- at Colorado State Uni- all agree on one thing: lew it. All predicted a average June to No- season this year of 10

BY PHIL DAVISON
in Miami

tropical storms, with six of them becoming hurricanes.

In fact, 1998 saw 14 tropical storms, of which nine grew to hurricane strength. More important, they included the most destructive hurricane in 200 years, Mitch, which killed at least 11,000 in Honduras, Nicaragua and the rest of Central America, left thousands more missing and destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes.

"These deaths are not just numbers. They are real people, they are kids, moms and dads, and friends," said Jerry Jarrell, director of the National Hurricane Centre. "To say we did a great job sounds a bit hollow. We might have done more." He admitted that the traditional method of forecasting hurricanes - using the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale to measure wind speed - had proved woefully inadequate this year.

"The Saffir-Simpson scale was designed to give a visual picture of winds. It doesn't talk

about rainfall," Mr Jarrell said. He suggested a feasibility study into a new system that would predict how much rain a hurricane would carry.

The experts admitted that they may have underestimated the effect of the so-called La Nina weather phenomenon - a cooling of tropical waters in the Pacific that affects air circulation around the world. Last year, when the opposite phenomenon - El Nino, or warmer Pacific waters - prevailed, the number of hurricanes was below average.

Mr Jarrell also implied that Third World communications problems may have played a role in the Honduran disaster. "In the initial warning we put out, we had a problem contacting Honduras," he said.

Other experts conceded that they had expected Hurricane Mitch to continue due west in late October, instead of swerving south to slam into Honduras and its Bay Islands.

Referring to Hurricane Georges, which battered the Florida Keys in late September and killed hundreds in Haiti and

the Dominican Republic, Mr Jarrell said: "We will never know how close we came to a comparable [to Hurricane Mitch] disaster in Key West. We predicted Georges would be a category three hurricane. It hit land as a two but it could just as easily have been a category four."

He attacked what he said was the complacency of Florida Keys residents, 60 per cent of whom refused urgent warnings to evacuate, although he admitted that many had been afraid to flee across the only road out - a narrow two-lane, sea-level highway and causeways to mainland Florida.

The head of the National Hurricane Centre also criticised television reporters who competed for the most dramatic images by going out in hurricane force winds, clinging to lamp posts or wading in floods. "This is the worst possible example we can set. Sooner or later, we're going to lose some of these reporters," Mr Jarrell said. Speaking to media representatives, he said: "If any of you or your organisations are responsible for that, shame on you."



Key West residents fighting 90mph winds as Hurricane Georges hit the Florida coast in September

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However thirsty, water on tap is an alien concept

AMERICAN TIMES
CALIFORNIA

WANT TO know how to shock a southern Californian? Offer a drink of water. From the tap.

In a part of the world notoriously wary of the ill-effects of alcohol and caffeine, it is not too surprising, perhaps, that people like their water out of bottles. But this is not just about fads or dietary preferences. It borders on paranoia: offer a glass of tap water and you will not just get a polite refusal, you will get a lecture.

"How can you drink it? It tastes awful," said one of our neighbours. "It is full of industrial effluent and you're poisoning your children with it," said another. "You can't drink the water because the municipal pipes are full of lead and give you Alzheimer's disease," said yet another.

All this is very puzzling, since the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), which covers the six counties of southern California, actually has some of the cleanest, and tastiest, water in the country. In a competition between different public water supplies last year, it came out number one in a blind tasting test. Its quality is tested hundreds of thousands of times a year. But nobody seems to know this.

Affluent Californians drink bottled water because they think it is healthier and they prefer the neutral taste. Poor Californians drink bottled water because many are first or second-generation immigrants brought up in cultures - Latin American, especially - that say you would be crazy to trust the municipal authorities to keep the water clean.

The result is that everyone spends a small fortune each week on bottles or giant coolers from one of the thriving private water concerns.

The bigger companies offer to deliver water to your door, and their salesmen spend considerable energy canvassing the unconverted in suburban neighbourhoods. Thus was I hounded by a man from Sparklett's, one of the most successful private companies, not least because its agents have a reputation for catching and overpowering daytime criminals.

I almost overwhelmed him with the news that I drank out of the tap. "You can't do that," he exclaimed. "Tap water contains a deadly bacteria called crypto." Crypto, it turns

out, is short for cryptosporidium, a genuinely unpleasant bug derived from animal faeces that can get washed into reservoirs. In Wisconsin a few years ago, an estimated 100,000 people became sick in a cryptosporidium outbreak. But southern California has never suffered from it.

There are more grounds for concern from industrial effluent. Trichloroethylene, a potent factory cleanser, seeped into the groundwater of the San Fernando Valley at an alarming rate in the late Eighties, forcing a costly clean-up.

More recently, a chemical called MTBE, which is added to petrol to make it burn more cleanly, was found to be leaking into aquifers. Ammonium perchlorate, a rocket fuel component that can cause thyroid problems and cancer, has recently been discovered in Sacramento and in parts of southern California.

But even in these cases the risk to public health has been far lower than the scaremongers have suggested. The ammonium perchlorate, for example, was found to exceed the provisional "maximum contaminant level" of 18 parts per billion. But this level was deliberately set extremely low. It takes at least 3,000 parts per billion to trigger thyroid problems, and 200,000 parts per billion to induce risk of cancer.

Water is a sensitive subject in California at the best of times - Los Angeles stole most of its supply from upstate farmlands at the beginning of the century - and big private interests have often been happy to distort the issues. Discrediting the public water authorities is a time-honoured ploy of property developers seeking to minimise the effects their projects will have on groundwater levels.

That helps to explain why the bottling companies find customers so easily. "They feed on the public's phobias," said Lynne Plambeck, an environmentalist and former water board official. "They are not required to do the testing that public water agencies are and are undoubtedly not as safe. But in a town that pays big bucks for a grande coffee latte, is it any wonder we want to buy water as well?"

ANDREW GUMBEL



Water: a sensitive issue and big business



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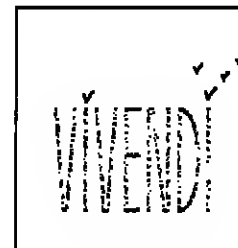
Reading this, you might deduce that such wide-ranging activities are commensurate with considerable financial growth.

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BUSINESS

\$250bn Exxon-Mobil deal is biggest merger in history

By MICHAEL HARRISON

THE MAP of the world oil industry was redrawn yesterday after Exxon unveiled details of its \$250bn merger with Mobil, and Total of France and Belgium's Petrofina joined forces in a \$36bn European merger.

Exxon Mobil represents the biggest merger in history and will create the world's pre-eminent oil major with revenues of \$200bn, 123,000 employees and worldwide production of 2.5 million barrels of oil a day.

The merged US oil giant forecast that it would generate savings of \$2.5bn after two years and shrugged off fears that regulatory opposition could yet scupper the deal.

Exxon Mobil estimated that rationalisation costs would reach \$2bn but it declined to say how many job losses could be entailed. In Britain, where Exxon operates under the Esso name, the two companies employ a total of 4,100 staff.

However, shares in both Exxon and Total, the dominant partners in the respective mergers, fell on confirmation of the two deals as analysts questioned whether they were overpaying at a time of historically low oil prices. Exxon shares fell 5 per cent while Total shares took a battering on the Paris bourse, crashing by 8 per cent as the market opened. Brent crude slid to \$10.43 a barrel.

Analysts and oil industry observers have warned that Exxon Mobil will have to overcome serious competition concerns both in the US and Europe, where Mobil already has a joint venture with BP covering 6,000 petrol stations.

European Union regulators are expected to force Exxon Mobil to unravel the tie-up with BP. This could result in BP buying back Mobil's 30 per cent stake in the \$5bn joint venture at a knock-down price.

Analysts said Exxon Mobil



Joining forces: An Exxon service station next to a Mobil station in Falls Church, Virginia, yesterday

could also be forced into heavy disposals in the US, where it dominates the petrol market, particularly on the West Coast.

However, Exxon Mobil said it did not expect any big anti-trust problems. It added that in the US it would be of a similar scale and size, both nationally and regionally, as other downstream joint ventures such as the BP-Amoco merger.

"This will be a company with a market capitalisation of \$250bn. It can afford to throw the

regulators a crumb of say \$5bn in asset sales or divestments," said Fadel Gheit, an oil analyst at Falmestock in New York.

The Exxon Mobil deal reunites two of the seven sisters orphaned by the enforced breakup in 1911 of John D Rockefeller's United Standard Oil Trust. Exxon shareholders will own 70 per cent of the enlarged company and the chairman and chief executive of the combined group will be Exxon's current chairman Lee Raymond.

Mobil shareholders will be left with 30 per cent of the merged group and are being offered 1.32 Exxon shares for each Mobil share they own. The deal values the smaller oil company at \$76bn.

Exxon, which was advised by the investment bank J P Morgan, estimates that the merger will improve its return on capital by 4 per cent within three to five years.

The main elements in the \$2.5bn cost-saving programme

are \$1.1bn of savings through rationalisation of production programmes, \$750m through "organisational efficiencies" and \$500m each through the adoption of best practices and a more selective exploration programme.

In the UK, Esso and Mobil together operate about 2,600 petrol stations and have a combined market share of 25 per cent. Esso employs 2,500 staff and has a further 780 employees at Exxon Chemicals. Mobil employs 1,300

staff in its oil and gas division and a further 500 in a joint venture with BP. Total Fina will become the world's sixth largest oil company with revenues of \$33bn and income of \$1.9bn. However, analysts criticised the proposal as being over-optimistic.

In Britain, Total and Fina have around 960 petrol stations, a combined market share of 8 per cent. The two companies operate a refinery together in Middlesbrough on Humberside.

BRIEFING

Euro plan for chemicals giant

SENIOR EXECUTIVES at Aventis, the new \$20bn Euro company born out of the merger of the life sciences operations of chemicals giants Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc, said yesterday that they are lobbying to be allowed to create a European company which will avoid them having to upset one or other party to the merger by registering in Germany or France. The idea of a European company has been tabled repeatedly by Brussels but has always collapsed because of an inability to reconcile the British practice of shareholder-owned companies with the German principle of worker representation on company boards.

Jürgen Dormann, the Hoechst chief executive who will run the new company from an as-yet-unbuilt headquarters in Strasbourg, wants to see the new Euro company law on the statute books before Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc move to a full merger in 2001.

Stock Exchange profits tumble

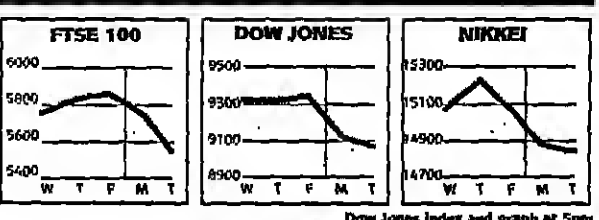
PROFITS AT the London Stock Exchange tumbled by 15 per cent in the six months to September 1998, reflecting increases in the operating cost base, special provisions for EMU and the year 2000 and a drop in trading income, according to figures released yesterday.

After tax, Exchange profits totalled £15.8m in the first half, compared to £18.3m in the corresponding period in 1997. Trading income fell by 8 per cent, reflecting the decision in October 1997 to cut trading prices by up to 60 per cent. However, overall trading volumes were up, according to an Exchange spokesman, as were sales of information services.

Pub group aims for £1bn float

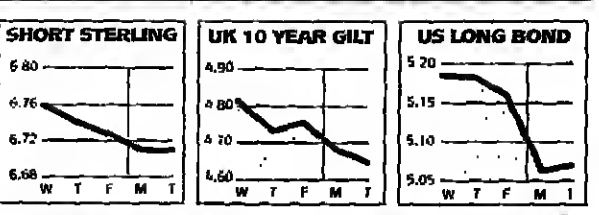
A NEW FORCE was created in the pubs sector yesterday with the formation of the 2,400 strong Unique Pub company. The group, which is aiming for a £1bn stock market flotation in 2001, has been formed from the Intreprenure, Spring Inns and Phoenix Pub groups controlled by Nomura, the Japanese securities house. Nomura selected the pubs, which hold exclusive beer supply deals with the major brewers. Around 20 per cent of the estate is leased to pub groups such as Slug & Lettuce, Yate's Wine Lodges and Regent Inns.

STOCK MARKETS



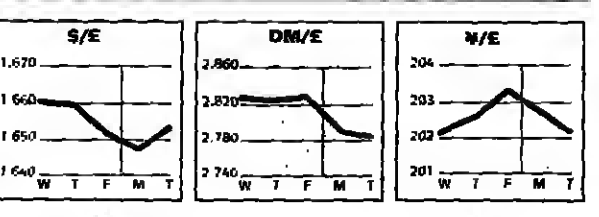
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	YTD (%)
FTSE 100	5337.50	-206.00	-3.59	6183.70	4599.20	3.40
FTSE 250	4821.40	-80.30	-1.64	5970.00	4247.00	4.81
FTSE 350	2632.60	-89.00	-3.27	2969.00	2210.00	3.63
FTSE All Share	2543.41	-83.25	-3.18	2886.92	2143.53	3.66
FTSE SmallCap	2039.50	-25.50	-1.24	2794.00	1834.00	4.14
FTSE Europe	1129.60	-11.50	-1.01	1512.00	1046.00	0.00
FTSE AM	808.30	-9.00	-1.10	1146.00	761.00	0.00
FTSE EURLC 100	323.63	-39.30	-10.88			
Dow Jones	9092.61	-35.27	-0.39	9380.00	7400.00	1.65
Nikkei	14835.41	-48.29	-0.32	17352.00	12787.00	0.99
Hang Seng	9975.85	-26.47	-0.26	11926.00	6344.00	3.14
Dax	4781.73	-240.97	-4.80	6217.83	3833.71	1.86

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr Chg
UK	6.88	6.87	6.36	4.65	4.38	-2.03
US	5.28	5.09	5.09	4.68	5.07	-0.77
Japan	0.44	0.17	0.52	1.14	0.81	-0.77
Germany	3.65	0.11	3.45	0.64	3.97	-1.20

CURRENCIES



Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6541	+0.05	1.6451	Sterling	0.6046	-0.16p
D-Mark	2.7804	-1.60p	2.9743	D-Mark	1.6807	-1.43p
Yen	202.16	-0.94	215.94	Yen	122.22	-0.94
E index	100.00	-0.50	105.60	S index	106.60	-0.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.66	-0.42	18.12	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	294.15	0.95	293.45	RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.88	-0.05	5.24	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5260	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.93
Austria (schillings)	19.02	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0508
Belgium (francs)	55.92	New Zealand (\$)	3.0014
Canada (\$)	2.4464	Norway (krone)	12.09
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7992	Portugal (escudos)	275.43
Denmark (krone)	10.35	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0078
Finland (markka)	8.2464	Singapore (\$)	2.5929
France (francs)	9.0911	Spain (pesetas)	230.25
Germany (marks)	2.7186	South Africa (rand)	9.0261
Greece (drachma)	455.79	Sweden (krone)	13.10
Hong Kong (\$)	12.38	Switzerland (francs)	2.2376
Ireland (pounds)	1.0887	Thailand (bahts)	54.55
India (rupees)	63.13	Turkey (liras)	460752
Israel (shekels)	6.3927	USA (\$)	1.6106
Italy (lire)	2694		
Japan (yen)	198.45		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0078		
Malta (lira)	0.6067		

Footsie and sterling dive as manufacturing stalls

By DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

NEW SIGNS that the economy is stalling helped send share prices tumbling and took the pound lower on the foreign exchanges yesterday.

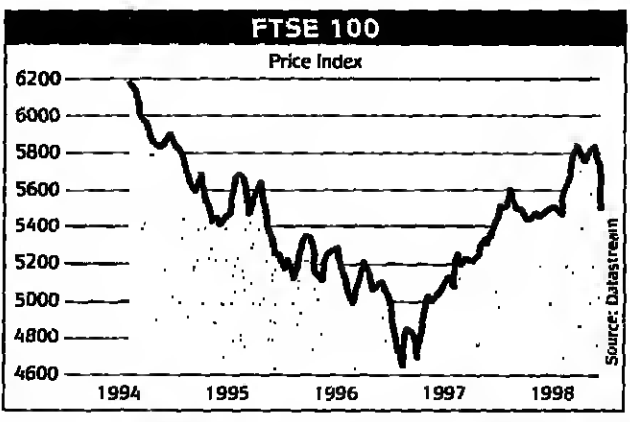
The FTSE-100 index ended more than 200 points lower at 5,337.5 in its biggest one-day fall in points since the crash of October 1987. Sterling lost more than two pence against the German mark, falling as low as DM2.7765 during the day.

Early weakness on Wall Street, although later reversed, added to the gloom in London. The news of another mega-merger did nothing to lift share prices.

"These mergers reflect companies trying to address a very hostile trading environment," said Richard Kersley, equity strategist at CSFB.

Business surveys on both sides of the Atlantic showed weaker than expected activity in manufacturing last month.

Wall Street shrugged off the US figures, which showed manufacturers struggling in the face of dismal export orders. "Manufacturing is in recession but consumer confidence is strong. The economy is slowing but



Mervyn King: MPC has 'soft hearts, hard heads'

not collapsing," said Ian Shepherson of High Frequency Economics in New York.

The UK's survey of purchasing managers in manufacturing painted an altogether bleaker picture, with activity declining for the eighth month running. The index dropped from 41.4 in October to 41.1, the furthest below the 50 boom-bust dividing line it has reached in its seven-year history. Prices charged also fell at the fastest rate recorded since the survey began.

Peter Thomson, director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said: "Worryingly, declining activity levels are increasingly being

translated into more widespread redundancies."

A separate survey of services launched yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry revealed growing pessimism in that sector of the economy too. The volume of business had increased during the past three months, but companies expected slower growth in the next three months, and have become pessimistic.

Although the prices they charged had declined, the 326 firms responding to the survey reported a sharp increase in their costs.

There was some comfort for industry yesterday from Mervyn King, deputy governor

of the Bank of England. Mr King said members of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee had "soft hearts but hard heads". They would not use interest rates to target lower unemployment because there was no long-term trade off between jobs and inflation.

"Sustainable reductions in unemployment require a combination of monetary stability on the demand side and micro-economic reforms such as the New Deal on the supply side," he said in a speech to the Employment Policy Institute. But Mr King added that the Bank would try to avoid "undesirable instability" in employment and output.

Barings deputy barred over Leeson affair

By ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

ANDREW TUCKEY, the former deputy chairman of Barings, the City merchant bank, was yesterday told he was to be disqualified from being a company director because of his failure to act to prevent the bank's collapse at the hands of trader Nick Leeson three years ago.

Mr Justice Parker ruled in the High Court yesterday that Mr Tuckey and two other senior Barings directors, Anthony Gamby and Roo Baker, were "guilty of such incompetence as to be unfit to serve as directors".

The length of the ban, which under the terms of the 1986 Company Directors Disqualification Act could last between two and 15 years, will be decided at a later date. The ban follows an application from Peter Mandelson, the Secretary for Trade and Industry.

Seven other former Barings directors, including the chief executive Peter Norris, have already been banned from serving as company directors for periods of two to five years. Barings was bankrupted in February 1995 after Leeson, a

trader in the bank's Singapore office, made huge losses on unauthorised trading in Japanese stock market futures.

A subsequent investigation by the Bank of England concluded that there was evidence of serious incompetence in senior management. A number of staff were also accused of providing misleading and inadequate information to regulators whose job was to supervise the bank.

Leeson, 31, whose exploits are the subject of a film *Bank Breaker* starring Ian McKellen, has served two and a half years of a six-and-a-half year jail sentence in Singapore's Changi prison. He is being brought back to Britain to be charged with fraud.

Shortly after the events led to the collapse, Mr Tuckey resigned from the bank and was taken over by the Department of Trade and Industry. He is believed to be working on a consultancy in the City at the London offices of the American stockbroker DLJ. Mr Tuckey is the joint ranking director of Barings and is expected to receive a DTT ban.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSIE SUFFERED the third biggest fall in its history yesterday as a sharp overnight sell-off on Wall Street sparked a savage round of profit-taking. Heavy selling left the blue-chip index 206.4 lower at 5,337.5, its largest slump since the 1987 crash, with more than 1.1 billion shares traded. A bearish CBI services survey and a gloomy report on manufacturing made things worse. The other indices fared slightly better, the mid cap ending 80.3 lower at 4,821.4 and the small cap 25.5 off at 3,039.5.

Market Report, page 23

NEW YORK

SURGING internet shares such as America Online and Yahoo! offset a decline in Exxon after it agreed to buy Mobil in the biggest acquisition ever. By early afternoon, the hi-tech dominated Nasdaq index was up 18.26, or 0.9 per cent, to 1,967.80, buoyed by the belief this holiday season will send record numbers of shoppers to retail sites on the World Wide Web. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 27.58, paring a 123-point loss, to 8,090.83. Exxon led the average lower, accounting for the Dow's entire decline.

TOKYO

STOCKS ended little changed as the market shrugged off a sharp fall in New York shares overnight and the bankruptcy of JDC Corp, a mid-sized construction company. By the close, the Nikkei 225 stock average was down 48.29 points or 0.32 per cent at 14,835.41. "The JDC bankruptcy is unlikely to deal a [long-term] blow to the overall construction sector. Some firms in the sector which face tough business conditions have been already sold," said Keiko Kondo at Merrill Lynch Japan. The dollar was down at 122.72 yen.

HONG KONG

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS led the Hang Seng Index down 426.47, or 4.1 per cent, to 9,975.85, amid concern high interest rates and recession will hit demand for offices and apartments. Sun Hung Kai Properties and Cheung Kong, the two largest developers, accounted for one-fifth of the decline. The Hang Seng Property Index has fallen 9 per cent since a report last Friday showed the city's economy shrank 7 per cent in the third quarter from a year ago, compared to a 5 per cent decline in the second quarter.

PARIS

STOCKS NOSEDIVED again, tracking the Dow Jones index as investors locked in profits on view that the markets have risen too steeply in recent weeks. The CAC-40 index closed down 100 points at 3,688.34, amid heavy volumes. The latest merger news did not help; oil company Total plummeted 12.34 per cent on arbitrage trading after announcing plans to join with Belgium's Petrofina. But many operators remained sanguine, saying they expected the index to rebound again before the year-end.

Rockefeller's empire rises again

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, the disparate parts of John D Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust are being reunited, driven together by an historically low oil price and an overdose of the "me too" syndrome.

After BP-Amoco, two more of the theophanes spawned from the enforced break-up of Rockefeller's oil empire in 1911 are coming back under one roof. Exxon Mobil is the day of them all. Who knows, if Total and PetroFina looked hard enough, perhaps they too would find some Rockefeller blood in their veins.

The problem with "me too" mergers is that bidders generally end up overpaying in their anxiety not to be left behind by the industry consolidation that is happening all around them. Yesterday the judgement of the market was that both Exxon and Total, the dominant partners to their respective mergers, may have fallen into just that trap.

Shares in Exxon and Total both fell in the case of the French oil company by a whopping 8 per cent. It is hard to see why when Total is paying a 22 per cent premium to PetroFina's all-time high just as oil prices hit their all-time low in real terms. With Exxon Mobil, the picture is little more complicated, since this



OUTLOOK

merger does not create a new dominant force in the global oil industry, but merely extends Exxon's lead.

For that reason, the economies of scale on offer are not as great as in BP-Amoco, nor are the synergies as compelling. The regulatory risk, however, is much greater since Exxon Mobil faces extensive competition hurdles in both North America and Europe.

In terms of size, Exxon Mobil looks more like a Saudi Arabia or a Venezuela than a mere oil company. But the companies own sums rather give the game away. BP-Amoco, with revenues of \$100bn a year, reckons it will achieve savings of \$2bn. Exxon Mobil, with revenues

twice the size, only expects to squeeze out \$800m more in the way of synergies than BP-Amoco.

This is before any forced divestments have eaten into the logic and the cost benefits of combining America's two biggest oil groups. In terms of enhancing shareholder value, it is hard to see how even the mighty Exxon can come close to BP-Amoco by swallowing up Mobil. But that may no longer matter. The question on the oil industry's lips now is how much longer Shell can withstand the temptation to join the merry-go-round.

Robert Fleming

ROBERT FLEMING is one of Britain's last remaining independent investment banks. For how much longer can it remain so? Or to put the question another way, for how much longer can Robert Fleming stay in its present form and continue to thrive?

Robert Fleming is not as big or successful as Schroders, and it lacks the corporate advisory focus and strengths of Lazards and Cazenove. Like N M Rothschild, it is privately owned and still run in the manner of a family business (a number of fam-

ily members continue to work at the bank), but unlike N M Rothschild, it is not wholly owned or controlled by the family.

Furthermore, it has taken a bath in the Far East and other emerging markets, quite how bad a one we will learn tomorrow when the bank announces its interim results.

As a private company it could be said that it is nobody's business but its own and its customers how the bank chooses to organise its affairs. It can afford to be more indulgent than others, and it perhaps doesn't have to be quite as obsessed with the pursuit of shareholder value as ordinary publicly quoted companies.

All of which is just as well, for when its shares do change hands, they do so at a discount to what they could be expected to fetch if Robert Fleming were a publicly quoted company. The effect of this is to discourage the "wrong" type of investor from joining the shareholder register, thus keeping it all in the family, so to speak.

Though Robert Fleming is only 46 per cent owned by family and staff, its other shareholders are mostly part of the Robert Fleming club in some shape or form, an inner circle of City institutions and individuals

who can be relied upon not to rock the boat. Why, a large chunk of the bank is owned by its own investment trusts, an extraordinary piece of incest which in recent years has damaged the performance of the investment trusts involved.

If Robert Fleming wants to survive and prosper in the next century, can it really afford to stay like this? The imminent departure of Patrick Gifford as head of the investment trusts business is perhaps indicative of continued tensions within the bank between what might be termed the family and modernising tendencies. The bank insists there has been no row, an account which is to some extent backed by the fact that he will continue as a director of seven of Fleming's 19 investment trusts.

The truth of the matter is that Robert Fleming has a superb name and franchise on its investment management side, which it has built upon through joint ventures with Jardines in the Far East and Rowe Price in the US. But the rest - securities, corporate finance, private and corporate banking - doesn't stand up to the most basic of tests on size, reach

and reputation. As long as Fleming remains bound by its present privately owned structure, it will remain incapable of acting effectively on this combination of strength and weakness.

Courtaulds

THIS IS a grim statistic that tells the tale of inexorable decline. The UK textile industry has underperformed the rest of the stock market virtually every year for the last two decades. This year it has surpassed itself with an underperformance of 60 per cent. This, then, is not a story of a sudden seizure, but of a long, lingering illness turning into a terminal one.

In recent months, scarcely a week has gone by without a profits warning at one of Britain's leading textile producers, generally accompanied by large scale job cuts. Courtauld Textiles announced a further 1,200 yesterday, bringing the total in the industry to more than 2,000 this month alone. There are reports of up to 60,000 textile jobs going over the next two years as the industry slides into the abyss.

Some of the reasons for the demise have been well chronicled; the

strong pound and weakening consumer demand at home have been like a hammer blow to the industry. Added to this is the relatively recent phenomenon of mighty Marks & Spencer changing its buying patterns.

M&S's power in the UK textile sector cannot be underestimated. It still buys 70 per cent of all its goods (excluding non-textiles) from the UK. Last year it bought £5.7bn worth of UK textiles, accounting for a third of the industry's output. So when the giant of Baker Street sneezes, the sector cannot help catching a cold.

When M&S called its major textile suppliers together for a crunch meeting in September, the writing was on the wall. M&S wanted its suppliers to cut costs, and for most of those present, that meant shifting more manufacturing to cheaper countries like Morocco, Turkey and the Far East. The slump in sales at M&S since then and the appointment of a new chief executive under pressure to implement change, will accelerate the process.

Britain may still be among the world's best when it comes to street fashion and daily life. But sadly it looks like the rest of the sector will be applying for its passport before the century is out.

IN BRIEF

2m bonanza

Firm's founder FOUNDER of Financial Rights will be worth approximately £24m when the software group floats on the London Stock Exchange this month. Shares in the group will be priced at between 150p and 200p each. The Financial Rights group has 100m shares, valued at £20m. The flotation, which will be £21m in new funds, will see Peter continue to hold a 22.5 per cent stake in the company.

Altrac buy

Altrac, the package tour operator, yesterday announced it had acquired Travelworld for £9.2m. David Crisland, chairman of Altrac, said: "Travelworld provides us with additional night street distribution, in accordance with our continuing programme of investment in distribution in the UK." Mr Crisland said he intended to increase the proportion of Altrac packages sold in the Huddersfield-based chain of 116 travel agents, one of the largest independent UK travel agents.

Jarvis £22m deal

JARVIS, the railway maintenance company, has won a £22m extension to its deal with Railtrack in the North Wales area. Paris-based chief executive of Jarvis, said that Railtrack "had demonstrated confidence in Jarvis", by awarding them the £22m contract.

Prison

TAYAC, the construction company, and Group Four yesterday won a £194m contract to build and maintain a privately financed prison in Walsingham. The prison, which will accommodate 600 male prisoners, will create 250 construction jobs, and 300 permanent jobs, when the prison opens in the year 2000.

Has moves in

HAY, the business service group, yesterday announced the acquisition of the specialist French courier Coral for an initial sum of £14m, plus performance-related payments of up to £6.4m. Ronnie Frost, chairman of Hays, described the acquisition as "the next stage in our strategy of expansion on the Continent".

BI appointment

THE BANK for International Settlements (BIS) yesterday announced it had appointed John Heimann as the first chairman of the new financial stability institute. The institute is a joint initiative by BIS and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision which is seen as a move to strengthen financial systems worldwide. Frederick Munsch was appointed the institute's first director, Heimann is currently chairman of Global Financial Institutions at Merrill Lynch, while Munsch is secretary general of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

News Analysis: George Soros's new book says that speculators threaten to destabilise the world economy

Is capitalism heading for breakdown?

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

"AS A fund manager, I depended on a great deal on my emotions. The predominant feelings I operated with were doubt, uncertainty and fear," writes George Soros in his new book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*. Wrecking ball, bubonic plague, depression, total breakdown - these are just a few of the emotional phrases Mr Soros uses in his analysis of global financial markets.

When someone who has benefited to the tune of billions of dollars from the financial markets says that destabilising speculation threatens a complete breakdown of the capitalist system - which has delivered such amazing advances in prosperity over the past five decades - it is worth paying attention. Certainly, opponents of free market economics have hailed Mr Soros's recantation with glee. But is there analytical substance behind the emotional gloss of the Soros critique?

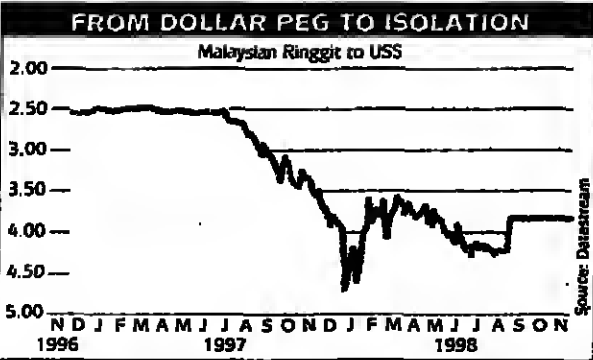
Financial markets have always been prone to crises. Human nature seems to contain a herd instinct, and besides, it can be rational for investors to create a bubble so long as they are confident about getting out before it bursts.

There is nothing inherently damaging about such self-fulfilling speculation. Indeed, in his *Principles of Monetary Reform*, John Maynard Keynes - usually quoted for his condemnation of "casino capitalism" - emphasises the importance of speculators to healthy capital markets. Speculators provide liquidity and reinforce existing trends rather than bucking them, he argued. The speculation has to have something to feed on in the first place.

Even so, the financial markets have clearly been a destabilising force in the world economy since the Asian crisis first erupted in July 1997. It raises the question of whether, as capital flows have grown larger and more footloose, the specu-



George Soros: As a fund manager I depended on a great deal on my emotions. The predominant feelings were doubt, uncertainty and fear. Reuters



lative froth has reached unacceptable proportions. In particular, would it be sensible to reintroduce capital controls, which have been steadily dismantled over the past three decades?

Although some economists - notably Paul Krugman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology - think there is a good case for capital controls, Mr Soros is clearly against them. "Capital controls are an invita-

tion for evasion, corruption and the abuse of power," he writes.

Certainly, the first regime to reach for controls, post-crisis, was the authoritarian Malaysian government. Meanwhile Chile, which did have restrictions on capital inflows, has recently lifted them. Exchange controls were effective after the war, when so much economic activity was subject to planning and restriction, but by the early 1970s they were all but useless. So, while one lesson of the Asian crisis is that developing countries should liberalise slowly and cautiously, it must not be forgotten that there were good reasons for the abolition of capital controls in the first place.

But if this type of restriction

is not the answer, what can be done? Mr Soros concludes that there should be international financial regulation, but not by the International Monetary Fund. The IMF is part of the problem, he says. Rather, he puts the onus on the Group of Seven countries but concludes that the prospects of the G7 taking effective action are dim as it has not yet intervened in Russia.

However, it is difficult to see the G7 as the right vehicle for international financial management, important as it might be in the case of a large and politically important country such as Russia. Apart from anything else the G7 itself is in flux, with the introduction of the euro in January likely to see the rapid emergence of a G8. In addition,

the biggest countries cannot practically be involved in overseeing all of the rest of the world, which is why the IMF and other such bodies exist.

In the end, it is not the institutional arrangements that matter. If the IMF did not exist, there would be calls for its creation after this year's crisis. The two key problems are whether the response to financial market turbulence should include genuine international co-ordination through the creation of a worldwide lender-of-last-resort, and what sort of exchange rate regime should exist.

As Mr Soros knows, fixed exchange rates can easily become sitting ducks for speculators. They are sustainable only if the countries locking their curren-

cies to another are prepared to adjust their domestic economic policies for the sake of the exchange rate. The gold standard survived only as long as they were. But the UK in 1992 was not prepared to match its macro-economic policy to Germany's, and the pound's exchange rate mechanism link was doomed.

The only viable alternatives in a world of huge capital flows are freely floating exchange rates and currency union. Europe has opted for the latter. If the rest of the world is stuck with floating rates, how can governments hope to counter the instability of the financial markets?

One solution is to have perfect domestic policies at all times, giving speculators nothing to run against. But this is a touch utopian - even if they all had first-rate policy makers, economies are buffeted by all sorts of shocks.

Another would be to create a genuine international authority with the task of stabilising the world economy and markets. At present the work of adjusting to crisis is forced on to a combination of the IMF and national central banks.

The IMF, which has meagre resources, effectively bails out banks that face the risk of default by a borrower by providing liquidity to the borrower, while national central banks bail them out by providing liquidity to the lender within their own boundaries if there looks to be a serious threat to the domestic banking system.

Perhaps the creation of an international lender of last resort would be preferable to this messy ad hoc response. Mr Soros seems to think some such source of finance is needed to resolve the crisis in the markets he helped destabilise. So, too, do some G7 officials. But the proposal is controversial.

Others believe that lending to borrowers in emerging markets is a risky business whose risk should fall directly on the speculators themselves - not least Soros Fund Management.

Duisenberg fuels hope of low rates for EMU

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PRESIDENT of the European Central Bank last night said there was "unequivocal" evidence of a slowdown in European growth, and said that no firm decision had yet been taken on the starting level of European interest rates.

"The risks as we analyse them and observe them are all on the downside," he said.

Wim Duisenberg's comments - combined with a raft of weak European economic data - raised hopes among some analysts of an early cut in interest rates in the 11 countries participating in the first wave of European Monetary Union.

However, others said that the ECB's latest forecast of Euro-area growth - around 2.5 per cent - was consistent with

ability fact could damage the euro, and cautioned that government budgets were far from balanced.

Weak inflation data and disappointing European business surveys strengthened the case for an early easing of interest rates, analysts said.

Figures released yesterday showed that inflation in the 11 countries participating in the first wave of monetary union remained unchanged at 1 per cent in October.

Separate surveys of European manufacturers revealed sharp falls in activity. Sharda Persaud, EMU expert at Paribas, said: "With 1 per cent inflation, there is basically no need for the ECB to be stubborn about not bringing rates down."

BANK OF AMERICA has approached Barclays Bank with an offer to buy its Barclaycard business, which analysts value at around £2.8bn.

The offer is believed to have come within the last three weeks, and may have been prompted by the talk that Barclays was contemplating a radical demerger of its retail and corporate banking businesses.

It has subsequently emerged that the demerger plan, which was rejected by the Barclays board, was the catalyst in the boardroom rift that led to Martin Taylor quitting as chief executive last Friday.

Analysts said that the Bank of America approach was opportunistic and unlikely to succeed. They said the priority for

Bank of America makes £4bn play to acquire Barclaycard

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Barclays is to concentrate on getting the bank back on track after the damaging events of the past week.

The idea of selling Barclaycard would nevertheless have its attractions provided the price was right.

Barclaycard is suffering a slow attrition to the market place as new entrants from the United States such as MBNA and Capital One have moved aggressively into the British market, offering lower rates.

Barclays announced in late September that it was cutting 11,000 jobs out of a total staff of 4,400 over the next three years. Barclays linked the move to a

plan to invest more heavily in technology.

However, most analysts interpreted the move as a tacit admission that the market place for credit cards was getting tougher and that Barclaycard, as the market leader, was feeling the strain.

However, Barclaycard still has the strongest UK credit card brand and by far the biggest market position of any of the clearing banks. It enjoys a return on capital of 15 per cent and is expected to contribute £300m or nearly 16 per cent of Barclays' £1.5bn pre-tax profit this year.

Bank of America has been seeking a way of breaking into the fast growing European credit card market for several

years. The bank recruited former Visa head Gene Lockhart to spearhead its European assault, although Mr Lockhart left the business in May after Bank of America's merger with rival Nationsbank.

Barclays insiders said that Barclaycard continues to be run within the Barclays group as a separate fiefdom.

There has been little attempt to integrate the business either operationally or in terms of cross-marketing mainstream banking services to credit-card holders, although the bank does make significant sums of money from selling insurance and travel packages to card holders.

Neither Bank of America nor Barclays were prepared to comment.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 2 December 1998

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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 2 December 1998

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FOR

SPORT

Rugby Union: The Oxford graduate son of a headmaster has taught South Africans discipline and unpredictability

Mallett rights the record Boks



RICHARD WILLIAMS

WHEN THE Springboks won the World Cup at Ellis Park on a sultry day in 1995, with Nelson Mandela in the grandstand and Chester Williams on the wing, a lot of non-South Africans found it easy to join in the celebrations. Old bigotries were set aside; history's wounds were being healed. But less than two years later, the good work had been undone. The quartet that master-minded the triumph on and off the field - manager Morné du Plessis, coach Kitch Christie, PR man Ed Griffiths and captain François Pienaar - had been blown apart and asunder. After a brief era of enlightenment, control of the world champions appeared to be safely back in the gnarled hands of the broderbond.

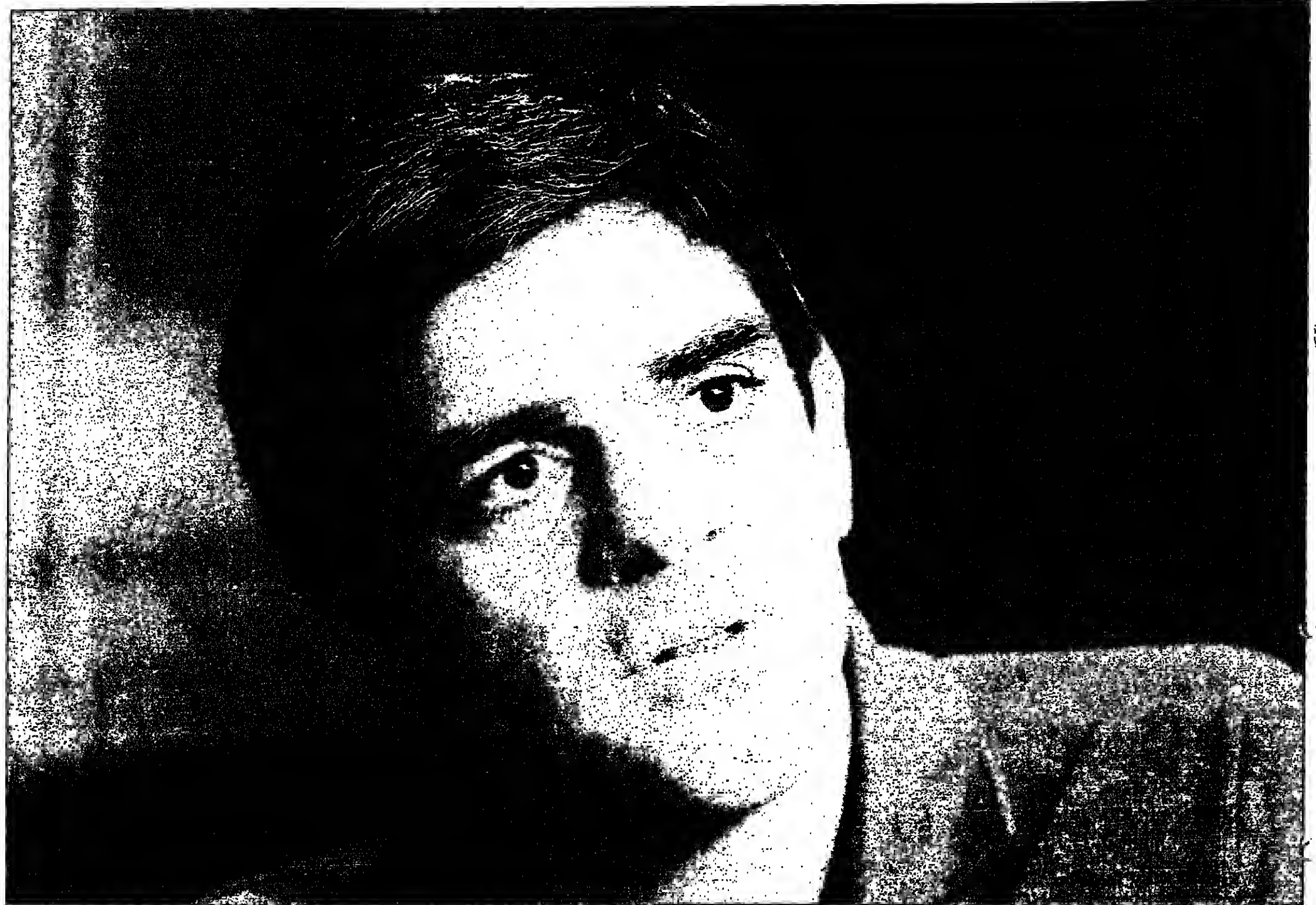
Such suspicions were reinforced when Andre Markgraaf, Christie's successor, was forced to resign after the publication of a tape recording in which he could be heard voicing casual racist slurs. Under his replacement, the inexperienced Carel du Plessis, morale plummeted as the team produced unrecognisably poor performances against the 1997 Lions and in the Tri-Nations tournament.

Enter Nick Mallett, the fast-talking, cosmopolitan Oxford graduate who won the Currie Cup four times as a No 3 forward with Western Province in the 1980s before growing tired of South African attitudes and emigrating to serve his coaching apprenticeship in Italy and France. Mallett's broader horizons turned out to be just what the troubled Springboks needed, and now they stand on the brink of history, aiming for a victory over England at Twickenham on Saturday that would be their 18th in a row, a new world record to erase that of Brian Lochore's All Blacks.

Much has been heard of Mallett's success in transforming his squad from the surly, introverted Boer archetype into a bunch of outgoing, sociable world citizens. But the job began on the pitch, and when we met this week at the team's Mayfair hotel I asked him first of all to identify the keys to the team's tactical evolution.

"I've always believed that the selection is where you start," he said. "You've got to select a side that you believe has the ability to go out and achieve the game plan. You've got to be incredibly disciplined, and you've got to know the rules. South African rugby has often been let down by ill-discipline because the players have been over-motivated and haven't used their brains. They've just piled in, confusing commitment and focus with uncontrolled aggression. I think we've improved that."

Second, in an emphasis increasingly to be heard among the coaches of the top international sides, comes defence. "You have to get people who make it difficult for the opposition to score. This team has a real defensive bloody-mindedness. You can't go on the field and say 'I want you all to tackle' when you're picking people who palpably can't. You can't have five guys in there who



Keeping his cards close to his chest: Bridge-playing Nick Mallett is deep in thought as he ponders his game plan for Saturday's meeting with England at Twickenham

David Ashdown

are going to let you down. You just mustn't pick them."

Third, and most revolutionary in Springbok terms, is the use of the imagination. "You can't say that we only play it through the forwards or we only play it wide or we only kick it. We try our best to mix it up and make it difficult for opposition sides to defend against us. We want to try to be unpredictable."

Mallett himself has lived anything but a predictable life. Born 42 years ago in Hertfordshire he was six weeks old when his father, a housemaster at Haileybury who sometimes opened the bowling for Kent in the summer holidays and reached the final of the British Open squash tournament, accepted a post as head of the English department at a new school in what was then Rhodesia. Seven years later the offer of a headmastership took the family to South Africa.

The memory of AWH Mallett, who died three years ago at the age of 70, is clearly an enduring source of inspiration for his elder son, who read English and history at the University of Cape Town before following his father to Oxford, where he studied politics and philosophy and gained a double Blue for rugby and cricket. "He was a great role model, and it's a big regret that he's not around. My

younger brother is a headmaster, and he would have loved that. And he would have enjoyed what's been going on with the rugby."

He certainly imbued his offspring with a love of games - not all of them of the physically confrontational variety. Bridge, for instance, was a family obsession. "I played a lot with my parents, and at school and at Oxford, to a not very high standard, although I got to the semi-finals of the university championships. But I really improved when I was in

boks' tour to Argentina, France and Wales, helping restore the unity and morale of a squad torn apart by the rivalries and jealousies that emerged in the wake of the World Cup success.

In Mallett's view, the team had played above themselves to beat a superior New Zealand side, thus arousing unrealistic expectations at home and setting up the players as pawns in the battle between Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch. "The whole thing fell down like a pack of

cards, and there was a lot of bitterness. Financially it was a total shambles... it had to be resolved."

South African rugby was sick and tired of controversy. I think they didn't trust me, having been overseas and being quite outspoken. I wasn't their cup of tea."

In fact Mallett claims to have learnt his man-management techniques from being "mishandled and mistreated" as a player, not appreciated or listened to by dictatorial coaches. "But by the time they did turn to me there was a sense of relief from the players, from the media, and from the supporters. I really felt I had their support."

To the liberal standing on the outside, the only disappointing element of the current Springbok first team is its all-white complexion (although there are several non-whites in the squad and in the management team). "Well, it's interesting," he said spiritedly, although his deep-set eyes suggested that he was keeping a feeling of irritation politely under control. "As the rugby coach of South Africa, I'm the only one in the world who is faced with this question. No one asks England or France why there isn't a black guy. In South Africa we happen to have a lot of blacks and coloureds, but rugby has traditionally been a white sport. In the past, when it was an amateur game, you could say, right, we'll stick someone in - it looks quite good, politically it looks correct, but we're getting to a situation where you're getting paid a salary and players are hired and fired on the results, and therefore I don't think you can start mixing too much up with merit now at this level."

"I always answer this question by saying that it's my job to get results for South African rugby and also to make sure that the white people representing the Springbok side are good representatives of South Africa, that they're not bigoted and they aren't arrogant or insular or

racist, that we come across as being really good ambassadors of South Africa - the whole of South Africa, not one little corner. We're the only national side that sings the anthem from first verse to last - not even the soccer side does that."

For the future, Mallett believes in a programme of affirmative action. "There must be scholarships for children who can't afford to go to a traditional rugby-playing school. I guarantee you I could go out there and get 150 hursaries from the top 30 schools for non-white players, and I'd get any number of businesses to sponsor their fees. Out of 150 maybe we'll get 50, and out of those 50 maybe we'll get 20 into provincial rugby, and out of those 20 maybe we'll get five into a Springbok team. That would be a wonderful thing."

It sounds like the sort of challenge a headmaster's son might relish. "Well, it would be incredibly rewarding," he admitted. "I could think of nothing better than seeing a programme like that through. But I want to see this through to the World Cup and do a good job. Then I'll take another look. Two years is not a long time in international terms. And at the moment I'm loving it... whatever happens on Saturday."

THE SPRINGBOK LEGEND: BENCHMARKS IN THE QUEST FOR SOUTH AFRICAN INVINCIBILITY

1937

Triumph in New Zealand:
The class of Philip Nel

"Skrum, skrum, skrum." The 1937 vintage was not pretty, but pretty rugby never buttered too many parsnips down New Zealand way. There was a fair sprinkling of genius in the back division - Gerry Brand, Tony Harris and Danie Craven (right), inventor of the scrum-half's dive pass, live on as legends - but when the tourists lost the first match of a three-Test series in Wellington, they turned to their pack for inspiration.

Here was Springbok rugby at its most ruthless: Roy Louw, Jan Lotz, Ferdie Bergh and Lucas Strachan ground out victory in a brutal second Test in Christchurch and then scrummaged their rivals into the Auckland mud to win the decider by a distance. It took the All Blacks another 59 years to get even by winning a series in South Africa.



1951-52

Supremacy in Europe:
Basil Kenyon's team

The greatest Grand Slam side ever to cross the equator? Those who saw them refuse to be persuaded otherwise. An eye injury suffered by Kenyon at Pontypool early in the tour resulted in the captaincy passing to Hennie Muller (right), the so-called "Windhound" of the Northern Transvaal. Together with Basie van Wyk and Stephen Fry, Muller formed a loose combination of immense authority and, with tight forwards of the quality of Jasp Bekker, Chris Koch and Salty du Rand digesting opposing packs for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the three of them were able to run riot across the northern hemisphere. Scotland went down by 44 points, France by 25 and Ireland by 17 - vast margins in an era when a three-point victory was considered decisive.



1995

Dreamtime in
Johannesburg: François
Pienaar's world-beaters

Talk about seizing the day. South Africa had been unofficial world champions for much of their rugby-playing history but under the enlightened leadership of a triumvirate of switched-on liberals - Pienaar (right), Kitch Christie and Morné du Plessis - they not only secured the official crown at their first attempt but reinvented the Springbok jersey as a symbol of an inclusive future rather than a divisive past. They did not possess a truly outstanding pack, although the emergence of Os du Randt as a loose-head prop of enormous stature, both physical and metaphorical, helped no end. The back division, inspired by Andre Joubert and Chester Williams, was superb, as was Christie's coaching. A triumph of iron will and self-belief.



1998

Apotheosis at Twickenham?
Gary Teichmann's Boks

Seventeen down, one to go. We already recognise these Springboks as a more complete act than their World Cup-winning predecessors, especially now the astonishing Bobby Skinstad (right) has been released from the replacements' bench. Victory over England on Saturday will do more than lead weight to a slice of sporting opinion; it will set down the facts in reinforced concrete. While Brian Lochore's All Blacks of three decades ago won their 17 consecutive Tests over a four-year period, Teichmann's Boks have done something similar in 16 months: a testament to both their physical and psychological resilience. Supremely functional rather than sublime, they possess genuine game-breakers in Skinstad and Joost van der Westhuizen. The record book awaits them.



Pressure on spine of England

Hopes are high for two divisions

THE SPATE of bad backs that continue to frustrate England's tour is showing no sign of abating. If losing a Test match in two and a half days was not damaging enough to morale, the injury to Graham Thorpe's lumbar region, the latest in an alarming list of players who cannot guarantee their fitness for more than a day at a time, has rounded off a miserable week in Perth. Any more setbacks and the Samaritans' hotline could well be busy.

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Perth

beach or a round of golf, Thorpe had treatment. In fact, following some acupuncture on Saturday, he is much improved, and providing he comes through two work-outs, as well as the flight to Melbourne, he will play against Victoria at the weekend. If not, the England management would have little option than to send him home. It was not long ago that bad backs in cricket were thought

to be exclusive to bowlers. Running, twisting, turning and generally pounding their way through the day, they were the one's that felt the surgeon's knife. Now, with front-on bowling actions helping to minimise stress fractures, it is the batsmen, perhaps as a result of batting with the extra weight of a helmet, that are keeping osteopaths honest. It is a precarious situation despite the 18-man squad, and if all the batsmen afflicted so far on this tour, Thorpe, Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher and Nasser Hussain, happened to

wake up crooked together, England would be hard pushed to put out a side. Uncertainty particularly over injuries is never a healthy way to visit Australia, one of the more demanding tours in terms of travel and intensity. These days there are fewer opportunities to recover fully and you have to be fit and robust enough to tour, as well as bat. Thorpe's current problem has apparently nothing to do with the one he had last summer, when a cyst was removed from his lower back. According to the England physio, Wayne Morton, the exertions of the

first Test, plus the seven-hour flight to Perth, simply aggravated a back still finding its way back to full fitness. One man's misfortune is another's opportunity, however, and Graeme Hick's upgrade to full party membership, after flying over as cover for Michael Atherton in Brisbane, is yet another chance for him to resurrect a flagging career. With Thorpe not fit for the Waca, Hick notched up his 50th Test. It was mixed affair, not unlike the man himself, and a first-innings duck was followed by a savage 66, the highest score in the match.

Providing England continue using seven batsmen, and Thorpe recovers in time for the next Test, Hick will have overtaken John Crawley in the reckoning for a berth in Adelaide. Considering that Crawley was picked in place of him after both scored hundreds against Sri Lanka, it is a cruel irony and one that will do nothing for the Lancastrian's confidence. "Graeme played positively and took the attack to the Australians," said the England team manager, Graham Gooch. "It was the right thing to do in the circumstances.

Mind you, we had essentially lost the match on the first innings. If we had scored 250 first up, it would have been a good game." Hick is not alone here as most of England's batsmen have tended to save their best for when England have been virtually out of the match. It is a habit, which apart from being futile, must be broken if Australia's dominance is to be challenged. To have a realistic chance of levelling the series, England need to get first-innings runs and take their catches. All other means are superfluous.

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

IN LESS time than it takes an England side to lose an Ashes Test, 110 years of County Championship tradition is likely to go out the window. The 18 first-class counties and Marylebone Cricket Club meet over the next two days at Lord's to decide among other things whether the competition first set up in 1890 should enter the 21st century as a two-divisional entity.

Last year the concept of a two-tier championship was thrown out; this time around the indications are that many have changed their minds and the summer of 2000 should see a new-look competition.

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board said yesterday: "The indications are that there are more counties in favour now than there were a year ago. Counties generally feel a little bit more comfortable with the idea."

But it is not cut and dried. The Keot secretary, Brigadier Stuart Anderson, sounded a warning note last night when he said: "I think the majority view from Kent is likely to support a two-tier competition, but it is conditional." And those conditions would be firstly, an equal share of ECB funds regardless of which division a county was in, and secondly, that existing registration regulations remained in place, thus discouraging players from gravitating to first division counties and denuding the lesser lights of all vestiges of talent.

There is also a proposal to change the points awarded in the Championship to encourage sides to fight harder for at least a draw. The proposal is for a win to be worth just 12 points - a reduction of four from the present 16. A draw would increase in value by one to four points, with batting and bowling hoops points remaining the same.

There is the tricky question of England players being contracted to the ECB: counties will be keen to know how great the financial compensation would be for the loss of their crowd-pullers and match-winners.

'Rabbits' taunt to Stewart's troops

THE ENGLAND team have been lampooned as "rabbits" in the Australian press after their seven-wicket defeat in the Perth Test.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph featured a mock back page picture which showed batsmen Mike Atherton, John Crawley and the captain, Alec Stewart, complete with rabbit's heads and ears.

Under the headline "Rabbit Stew" and unflattering references to the trio's Test averages, the paper also claims "Australian bowlers feast on England's humbies."

The Telegraph claimed that most of the England batsmen were "so psychologically shattered by Australia's Ashes dominance yesterday they could not look their tormentors in the eye."

The paper also claimed that most England players snubbed an invitation for a drink in the Australian dressing-room although Atherton, Mark Ramprakash, Graeme Hick and Stewart did turn up.

Melbourne's Herald Sun said the Perth Test proved the tourists were "markedly inferior" to the Australians and that it was only by luck that they were trailing 1-0.



England's 'rabbits' as portrayed in the Sydney Daily Telegraph after the Perth defeat. From left: Mike Atherton, John Crawley and Alec Stewart Sydney Daily Telegraph

The Age reported: "Certainly England did have their moments in this remarkable three-day Test but their problem was that they could not string them together." There was some relief from

the Poms bashing thanks to the syndicated column of the former Somerset captain Peter Roebuck. He wrote: "The distance between the sides did not appear as great. The seven-wicket winning margin was a bit rough."

Shane Warne will miss Victoria's game with England this weekend. Australia's leg-spinner, recovering from the shoulder operation he had in May, has no intention of risking himself in the four-day game, starting in Melbourne on Saturday.

"There's nothing to be gained by playing against the Poms when I'm still only half fit," he said. "I want to have a go at the Poms in this Ashes series but I am still in the middle of a carefully worked out programme, designed to get me back into Test cricket."

"Why should I let the Poms have a go at me when I am honestly nothing like 100 per cent spot on with my bowling?"

"There's no secret about me not having my full repertoire together yet. I only want to play against England when I can seed down the same bag of tricks that has baffled them before."

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Short-term memory loss

Sir: In the pandemonium surrounding Arsenal's exit from the Champions' League, many newspaper articles have blamed Arsène Wenger for selling Ian Wright and not strengthening his squad. You don't have to be a shrewd Arsenal supporter to recognise that Arsenal would never have won the Premiership with Ian Wright in the team. His style of play encouraged the longer ball game - a game that we have seen is woefully inadequate nowadays. While manager, Bruce Rioch tried to sell Wright and met with supporter (and allegedly board) annoyance. Does it not say something about the respect that Wenger commands that he faced no opposition when he sold Wright only one and a half years later?

This year's pre-season transfer merry-go-round saw newspapers criticising "player power", "over-inflated transfer fees" and "player wage demands". Wenger made a stand against player demands, and Patrick Kluitert was criticised for wanting \$40,000 per week. Yet now, hypocritically, newspaper articles conclude that Wenger was wrong not to buy him. Are the press and supporters so fickle that, late goals in Champions' League games together with recent poor performances, mean the scrutiny of Wenger's judgement? Was 16 May 1998 such a long time ago? GARY JACOB, Oxford

Referees must improve too

Sir: Clayton Thomas of Wales does international rugby in favour of the manner in which he con-

ducted last weekend's Test match between Ireland and South Africa. All one wants from a ref is consistency - fairness in the application of the rules and a desire to reward constructive rugby so that this great game should be truly entertaining. When he reviews the video of his performance he will surely realise he failed on all counts.

Northern hemisphere rugby has learned many lessons in the last six months and has improved enormously to the point where they are able to compete and, probably, win again in the near future against the southern hemisphere sides. This kind of help, though, will do their cause no good in the long term. ROGER CLOSE, Somerset West, South Africa

District blend key to future

Sir: I thoroughly agree with Kenny Milne's comments about the need for a "bridge" to be constructed between Scottish club rugby and the two Scottish super districts.

The Scottish Rugby Union should rename the two super districts - Caledonia and Reivers - and continue their development as planned in both a British League and the European Cup.

However, the SRU should also re-establish the Inter-District Championship with the four old districts - Glasgow, Edinburgh, North and Midlands and the South. If the make-up of these four teams was split between the best of the players in club rugby and the fringe squad players of the two super districts then the matches could be used as trials by the SRU. This platform would help them decide

which players were ready to step up to or to remain in the following season's super district squads. This could be done very effectively and fairly by limiting each district to four professionals (two forwards and two backs) on the pitch at any one time.

This mix would, I believe, help achieve what all Scottish rugby supporters want to see - a stronger and more successful international side.

ROBERT D KILGOUR, Joint Chief Executive, main sponsors of Kirkcaldy RFC

Whip - getting it straight

Sir: The views of Mr Brunton (Letters, 27 November) on the use of the whip in horse racing are sadly misguided. The whip is not used as a weapon by jockeys, but as a necessary tool of his trade. Thoroughbred horses are invariably temperamental and a simple wave of "the stick" keeps them from veering off a straight line.

Racing without whips would end in farce and would certainly not be a true test of either horse or rider. Leave it to the professionals, Mr Brunton. ALISON MASEKEL, Aylesbury

Blossoming of Tudor ignored

Sir: Having read Derek Pringle's report on the second Ashes Test Match in Perth, I am astounded, amid all his doom and gloom about English cricket, he chose not to mention the performance of Alex Tudor. Local commentators praised the young man's efforts and predicted that England would have a first-class pace

attack for the future, teaming Tudor with Darren Gough and Alan Mullally.

Although not an England supporter, I believe I speak for many Australians when I say that the state of English cricket does nothing for the Ashes series and less for the game internationally.

The structure of the game in your country needs a make-over and the selectors must be prepared to blood young players at the top level. In Australia, competitive cricket is played at all levels from the age of about 10 and it stays that way until they are adults. A wander around the club grounds on a Saturday afternoon will reveal why Australian cricket is so successful. The standard of the fielding alone indicates that we play the game to win. W N STEPHEN, Victoria, Australia

Offside and off the wall

Sir: Rakesh Chhabra (Letters, 11 November) is right about the harm done by the offside rule. My suggestion for reform goes like this: Offside will only be given if the defending team appeal for it and the linesman agrees; it is punishable by a direct free-kick to the attacking team (obviously), from the point where the last defender was standing at the time of the offence (or if this was in the penalty area, a penalty kick). A defender guilty, in the referee's opinion, of "persistent offside" may be shown the yellow card, and in extreme cases the red one.

If the administrators really believed in the present rule, they would have instructed referees that players who persisted in being caught offside must be sent off. BOB NEWMAN, Epsom, Surrey

WIN AN EVENING WITH SOME OF YOUR SPORTING HEROES AND A TRIP TO THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES

The Independent and the Australian Tourist Commission have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a friend the chance not only to dine with some of Britain's most famous sporting heroes at the Sports Writers Association Annual Dinner at the London Hilton on Monday 14th December, but also the opportunity to fly to Sydney and visit the 2000 Olympic Games.

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are set to generate unprecedented levels of interest. More than anything, Australians are famous for their obsession with sport. The continent has established its reputation as a leading sporting nation and is host to some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. So there's never been a better time to head Down Under and discover what Australia has to offer. SportsWorld, the British Olympic Association's appointed tour operator, has provided the winner with six nights' accommodation in a twin room and two event tickets. SportsWorld has a comprehensive range of programmes from fully inclusive packages to flight and ticket options. Call SportsWorld for full package details.

Qantas Airways is providing two return tickets to Sydney. For nearly 80 years, Qantas has been taking its passengers safely and comfortably to their destinations - with a relaxed confidence and friendliness that are unique to Australia. By the year 2000 the entire Qantas international fleet will have been upgraded - providing new levels of comfort never before experienced in flight.

The Independent have selected 6 sporting personalities from those previously honoured over the past 50 years - all you have to do is to vote for one of the athletes who in your opinion has contributed the most to their sport. Phone the number opposite the name listed below and tell us on the line the reason for your selection and leave your name, full address and a daytime telephone number. You could be the lucky winner who receives a pair of tickets to the Sports Writers Association Dinner and your trip to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

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Terms and Conditions:
1) Calls cost 60p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. 2) Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 6 December 1998.
3) Tickets are non-transferable, there are no substitute prizes or cash alternatives. 4) Normal independent rules apply. 5) The Editor's decision is final. 6) All entrants must be aged 18 or over and have a valid passport and visa to travel. 7) Open to residents of the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Channel Islands, excluding employees of Independent Newspapers.
8) Qantas Airways or SportsWorld Group PLC, their families, their agencies or any other company directly connected with the administration of this competition. 9) On entering this competition entrants are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the competition rules. Entry instructions form part of the rules. 10) The prize consists of 2 economy class tickets London - Sydney - London. The prize winner and their partner must travel together for the whole journey. Insurance is not included but must be provided.
11) All bookings subject to availability. Once booked no changes to be made without the consent of Qantas and without payment of the relevant charge. 12) Outbound flights must be taken during September 2000 inclusive. 13) Flights are subject to Qantas's Terms and Conditions of carriage and availability. 14) Exact travel date, accommodation and event tickets to be subject to final agreement between SportsWorld and prize winners.

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Blazing a trail across Arabia

An elite group of horses and riders will next week race across 100 miles of desert. By Genevieve Murphy

THE MASSED start for the World Endurance Riding Championships sounds more chaotic and only marginally less dangerous than The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Some 200 riders and horses (more than twice as many as ever before) will be milling around in the dark on 10 December as they prepare for the 100-mile race, which will be run in a single day through the deserts of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Vehicles will be setting out too. These will include a convoy escorting the best known of the participants: Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, who is making his first attempt at the world title.

Jo Trego, one of the six British competitors who left for The Emirates on 19 November for three weeks of acclimatisation, believes that the massed start could be a nightmare with so many competitors – a lot of them first-timers. She would not, however, miss it for the world.

"That's when my adrenalin is up and kicking," Trego said, before she left her home near Shepton Mallet for the Middle East, carrying with her the best wishes of those at the res-

idential home where she works as a night-time carer. All previous endurance championships have been held either in Europe or the United States. This one was scheduled to be part of October's World Equestrian Games in Italy until the International Equestrian Federation (FIE) received an offer they could not refuse from the sheikhs.

As the Arabs pointed out, their indigenous small, tough and wiry Arabian horses have dominated the sport since the inaugural World Championships of 1986. A trial run, held in February and won by Sheikh Hamdan, was deemed a huge success by the bigwigs of the FIE.

The phenomenal number of entries for next Thursday's championships will inevitably provide logistical problems for the UAE Equestrian and Racing Federation, who are hosting the event, and for the former British Olympic rider, Michael Bullen of Feden Bloodstock Ltd who has been responsible for transporting around 200 horses from all corners of the world.

Trego is the only Briton with previous experience of competing in an Arabian desert, having ridden her Arab gelding,



Oliver's Taboo and his rider, Jo Trego, are among 200 partnerships competing in the World Endurance Championships Robert Hallam

Oliver's Taboo, on a 26-mile marathon in Qatar in 1995. The start of that ride remains a vivid memory: "There were helicopters overhead and lots of vehicles, with everyone yelling, whooping and beating horns. It felt like being a film star."

The British team (seeking to add to World Championship victories of 1986 and 1990 and successive European team titles of 1993 and 1995) will not be rushing for an early lead on 10 December. "We'll try to stay together as a team and keep out of trouble," Trego said. "You gain nothing by racing over

the first 25 miles; the faster you go, the longer it takes for the horse's pulse to come down."

The pulse rate is of vital importance at the five vet gates, which riders will enter by using electronic swipe-cards, and again at the finish. Stringent veterinary controls mean elimination for any horse whose pulse rate is not below a specified limit within 30 minutes of arrival.

Thanks to a massive investment by the Arabs, the vet gates will be at a lavish control centre in the desert, where shade and showers will be provided for the horses. This is

where the back-up crews rush into action. Trego will have her daughter, Carly, and a friend, Aly Edwards, to give Oliver's Taboo a cooling shower and provide refreshment for horse and rider.

Those campaigning for endurance riding to be introduced as an Olympic sport can point to the knowledge gained by the riders (most of them on inexperienced horses) and to the 40-odd nations taking part in the forthcoming championships, which is more than any recorded by other equestrian disciplines. "It is very much an

amateur sport, we all do it for the love of it," Trego said. "Although we don't have any fancy facilities, we still manage to produce top athletes."

Trego first met Oliver's Taboo 12 years ago when he was only 18 months old. Had it not been her 26th birthday, she might have resisted paying the £275 asking price which she could not really afford. Fortunately, she included herself and now has a wonderful rapport with her "incredibly gutsy little horse."

Sheikh Mohammed must have paid considerably more for his mounts (he has won three

major endurance rides this year on three different horses) but you could hardly accuse him of having it easy.

He, too, will be facing a 100-mile ride at an average speed of 10 to 11 miles an hour (which means trotting and/or cantering for the entire journey). Like Trego, he may also find himself sitting down gingerly the following day.

BRITISH SQUAD FOR WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10 December): Jo Campbell (Barrow), G. Harley (Moon God), J. James (Rosen), G. Gurnell, A. Newton (Dorset), J. Trego (Oliver's Taboo) and J. Williams (Drumghra Shera).

King sets the title wheels in motion

BOXING

HENRY AKINWANDI will fight the winner of the world heavyweight championship unification bout between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield, according to the promoter Don King.

Britain's former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, who has a record of 33 wins, one defeat and one draw, suffered his only defeat last year to Lewis when he was disqualified for failing to fight.

He was to have faced Holyfield last June, but the fight was cancelled when Akinwandi tested positive for hepatitis.

The good oews for the Dulwich-born, Akinwandi, who is now based in the United States, came in New York on Monday night as Lewis and Holyfield set the stage for their long-awaited heavyweight unification on 13 March.

"When you wait for a long time and you cry, you finally get what you want," Holyfield said. "On 13 March, Lewis cashes in. But I will be ready. I will be the undisputed champion. I will be wearing the belt."

King compared the fight to the famed 1971 Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier bout at the Garden, playing the role of circus ringmaster with his customary panache.

"The British are coming. Get ready and be fortified," King said. "I want all the Brits to come along with the Union Jack and sing along. We're allies. It's probably the greatest event you have seen in a long time."

The four-times world champion, Terry Norris, announced his retirement 12 hours after failing to win the World Boxing Association light-middleweight title in Paris. The American was stopped in the ninth round by Frenchman Laurent Boudouani – his third straight defeat.

Norris contested 23 world title fights and retires with 47 wins and nine defeats. His career featured wins over Sugar Ray Leonard, Don Curry, John Mugabi and Meldrick Taylor.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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Milner's tale is a lesson in perseverance

Bedlington Terriers' prolific striker has shrugged off rejection by Newcastle and will be snapping at Scunthorpe's heels in the FA Cup. By Simon Turnbull



JOHN MILNER will never forget the day Kevin Keegan called him into the manager's office at St James' Park at the end of his two years as a YTS player with Newcastle United. "He said, 'Sorry. We're going to have to inform you we're not keeping you on,'" Milner recalled. "I was devastated."

Instead of making the grade with his former youth team colleagues - Steve Watson, Lee Clark, Alan Thompson and Robbie Elliott - Milner has spent the past six years making television screens for a living. If Kevin Keegan was looking at one on the evening of 14 November he might just have seen his one-time cast-off achieve a feat his expensively-assembled team could not manage in August.

Keegan's Fulham - Peter Beardsley, Paul Peschisolidi, Paul Bracewell, John Salako and all - put just one goal past Carl Emberson on their visit to Layer Road. Milner beat the Colchester United goalkeeper twice at Doctor Pit Welfare Park to help earn Bedlington Terriers, champions of the Arnot Insurance Northern League, a famous 4-1 victory and an FA Cup second round tie this Saturday at Glanford Park.

Scunthorpe should be braced for its biggest invasion of scouts since the days when a helmet-haired youngster called Keegan drew a veritable Gang Show gaggle of the football variety to the Old Showground. At least eight clubs have made enquiries about Milner, among them Colchester, who were so impressed with their FA Cup player they wanted to take him with them back to Layer Road.

At 24, Milner is not the same

'He's got what you can't coach into anyone - an instinct for getting into goalscoring positions'

player Keegan rejected at 18. "I was a right-back in those days," he pointed out. "And I was only 5ft 11in. I shot up after I left Newcastle. I'm just under 6ft 11in now."

Pushed up front in a mid-match crisis for Seaham Red Star, Milner discovered he possessed a hitherto hidden striking talent. He scored a hat-trick and has been plundering prolifically ever since.

Having joined Bedlington

via Seaham, Bishop Auckland and South Shields, his goals tally for the Northumberland Terriers stands at 95 in less than two-and-a-half seasons. The header he netted in a 3-0 FA Vase win against Ramsbottom United last Saturday took his running total for the present campaign to 30.

With the scouts struggling to keep count, Milner - from Pen-shaw, the Wearside village famed for its replica of the Athenian Temple of Theseus and for offering up to the great god of English football a player who has twice struck winning shots in European Cup finals, Alan Kennedy - is hoping for an opportunity to make his name in the professional game.

"I'd love a chance," he said. "I think I'm good enough."

Keith Perry, the Bedlington manager, does not disagree. "I wouldn't go so far as to say John is a Premiership player," he said. "But he's certainly good enough to play in the First Division. He's by far the best non-League striker I've ever seen."

Tony Lowery, the coach who grooms the Terriers, has no doubts about Milner's pedigree either. "I played in the Football League for nine years with Mansfield," he said, "and



Hats off to John Milner whose goals tally for non-League Bedlington Terriers stands at 95 in less than two-and-a-half seasons David Hewitson

there's no doubt in my mind that John can play at that level. No doubt at all."

"What I find with non-League players is that they have a weakness in their game. There's a reason why they're playing non-League football. But you can't really pick a fault with this lad."

"He's got a good touch. He's quick. He's very good in the air. He's strong. He holds the ball up well. And he's got what you

can't coach into anyone: an instinct for getting into goalscoring positions."

Weaknesses were apparently difficult to find in the Bedlington team as a whole when they delivered their knockout blow to Colchester. They did so, as it happens, less than 50 yards from the front door of the Scunthorpe manager's brother.

John Laws has lived in the street next to Doctor Pit Wel-

fare Park for 14 years now. And the chances are he will have been telling his Brian, and maybe even Scunthorpe's celebrated vice-president - one IT Botham - not to bank on a cricket score when the underdog Terriers are let off the lead on Saturday.

Jason Dozzell, one-time £1.9m man and one of the Colchester players stumped at Bedlington in the first round, would probably say the same

thing, too. "He must have been gutted by the result but he came into our dressing-room and shook hands with every one of the lads," Lowery said. "It was good of him and it was great for our lads to get that sort of respect."

"This is a chance in a lifetime for us now. It's unbelievable to think that we're one game away from the possibility of a tie against Manchester United. You think, 'That can't be right."

Bedlington Terriers versus Manchester United. But that's the FA Cup."

That is the FA Cup, of course, and the odds against it ending up as Bedlington Terriers' property in May have been slashed since the first round from 20,000-1 to 15,000-1.

"Is that right?" John Milner said. "I'll have to have a flutter at that." But what price Kevin Keegan taking a belated chance on the one that got away?

Lucescu to be Inter coach

INTERNAZIONALE YESTERDAY signed Mircea Lucescu to coach their star-studded but volatile team to the end of the Serie A season in May.

The Romanian's appointment, on a reported one billion lire (£344,700) contract, was announced at the Milan club's training camp the day after the dismissal of Gigi Simoni. The veteran Italian coach was fired despite consecutive wins which kept the club in the running for the European Cup and Serie A.

The Internazionale president, Massimo Moratti, had bitterly criticised the quality of play following a 3-1 victory against Real Madrid in the Champions' League game last Wednesday and an injury-time 2-1 win against Salernitana in a league match last Sunday. "I'm convinced I did the right thing," Moratti said yes-

terday. "I think I have interpreted the feeling of our fans, who were unhappy with the team's play."

Inter sold 60,000 season tickets this season after winning the UEFA Cup and finishing second to Juventus in the Italian league last campaign.

Inter, whose playing staff includes Ronaldo, Youri Djorkaeff, Roberto Baggio, Diego Simeone and Ivan Zamorano, are seventh in the league, five points behind the leaders, Fiorentina, with a record of five wins, two draws and four defeats.

Lucescu is a former coach of the Romanian national team, both Rapid and Dynamo Bucharest and the Italian clubs Brescia and Reggiana.

After yesterday's first training session with the Inter players, he said: "I will need time to change the team... to switch

to zonal defence and make the play more offensive."

Simoni, whose stay with Internazionale was a stormy one, said yesterday he was the victim of "an unfair, unexpected decision".

Some Italian newspapers suggested that Simoni paid for the bad start to the season by Internazionale's Brazilian forward Ronaldo, who has been repeatedly sidelined with tendinitis in the knee and has failed to repeat his goalscoring feats of the previous season. Simoni was also criticised for his defensive tactics.

Lucescu, 53, could be keeping the Internazionale bench warm for Marcello Lippi, the Italian coach who may leave Juventus at the end of the season and join Inter for the 1998-99 campaign.

However, Moratti denied a decision for next season had al-

ready been taken. "Lucescu can prove he deserves to coach a great team," Inter's president said. "He could be a more lasting solution."

A Singapore soccer referee was jailed for eight months for accepting bribes to fix a match two years ago. It was reported yesterday.

Ramasamy Rajandran, 45, of the Football Association of Singapore, which oversees the domestic soccer league, was sentenced on Monday in a district court for fixing an August 1996 match between Police Football Club and Sembawang Rangers. The Straits Times said.

Singapore's Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau received a tip and arrested him on three charges of corruption. Ramasamy was also fined 10,350 Singapore dollars (£3,850).

Roma look to Nice for talent

ROMA, THE Italian Serie A club, are close to taking over France's Second Division team Nice in an effort to expand the growth of young talents.

A spokesman for the Roman club, which is owned by Italian industrialist Francesco Sensi, said yesterday that negotiations with Nice had entered the final stage.

"But the formal final agreement has not yet been reached," the spokesman said. Club officials said the control of the French team was intended to give Roma the possibility of fishing for youngsters in France and other countries.

"Nice would be a sort of breeding ground for young players and for those players Roma can't immediately field," the spokesman explained. Roma are currently second to Fiorentina in the Serie A standings while Nice are last in

the French Second Division.

The Juventus manager, Luciano Moggi, yesterday defended as "well grounded" the decision to only stay in Istanbul for the day for tonight's politically charged Champions' League game against Galatasaray.

The Italian league champions, who need a victory against the Turkish team to keep their qualifying chances alive, decided they will travel to Istanbul today and return home immediately after the game.

Uefa, European football's governing body, which requires teams to arrive the day before European Cup matches, was critical of Juventus' decision.

"Juventus feels there are well grounded motives for failing to conform to Uefa directives," said Moggi, the general director of the Turin team which is owned by the Agnelli family.

Juventus yesterday confirmed their travel plans for the match, already postponed by one week after Italy's refusal to extradite a Kurdish rebel leader prompted anti-Italian demonstrations in Turkey.

Several Juventus players, who had initially refused to travel to Istanbul, bowed to the club decision to play Galatasaray but criticised the Uefa stand.

"We have been forced to play a game conditioned by political motives," said the goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

The captain, Antonio Conte, said that the Italian government and Uefa had ignored the Italian team. "Uefa and the government have claimed that there are no security problems in Istanbul... but as far as we know no Uefa nor government representative will be in Istanbul today."

The former Middlesbrough favourite Juninho has denied seeking a move back to England from Atletico Madrid. The 25-year-old Brazilian midfielder was angry at being left on the bench for Saturday's win at Barcelona, but said: "I know nothing about the alleged interest of certain English teams. I expect to stay at Atletico and work at keeping my place - even if I do have a great love for Middlesbrough."

Juninho, who signed a five-year contract for Atletico last year, was hugely popular at Boro and was voted the club's player of the year.

He reluctantly left after they were relegated, moving to Spain for £12m. A return to Middlesbrough would be well received on Teesside, although Spanish media reports said Aston Villa and Chelsea are also monitoring the situation.

Raul finds route to world club win over Vasco

REAL MADRID were crowned world club champions for the first time since 1960 when they overcame Vasco da Gama of Brazil to win the World Club (Intercontinental) Cup 2-1 in Tokyo yesterday.

Real Madrid, whose indifferent domestic league form has left them currently eighth in the Spanish first division, capitalised on an opening own goal by Vasco to regain the form and pride that carried them to the European Cup last May.

"This win will give us impetus for the rest of the season," said the Real Madrid coach, Guus Hiddink. "Tonight we were a bit lucky with the first goal, but we kept attacking and that's what won it for us."

Real, skillfully marshalled by Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis at the back and inspired by Raul in attack, gave a battling display that was ultimately too good for the Brazilian side, who mixed some excellent approach play with periods of sluggish mediocrity, possibly due to spending 12 days in Japan without a match.

"We just gave Real too much space to do what they wanted. They took the few chances they had, we didn't," the Vasco coach, Antonio Lopes, said.

Vasco had 15 shots on goal, one more than Real.

In a spirited game in which six yellow cards - three to each side - were handed out, Vasco played their part in an open, attacking match which tipped Real's way after 25 minutes when Naza headed into his own net when it looked easier to clear. The goal came after the Dutch international Clarence Seedorf found Roberto Carlos with a long-range crossfield pass. The Brazilian collected the ball wide on the left and whipped in a speculative cross to where Naza, standing alone six metres from his own goal, appeared to lose his sense of direction and headed the ball past Carlos Germano and into his own net.

The Brazilians changed their tactics in the second half opting for longer balls that put the Real defence under increasing pressure and in the 57th minute they were rewarded. The Real goalkeeper Bodo Illner parried two shots at close range and Real appeared to have weathered the danger with a high lofted clearance to the edge of their own box. However, Juninho, whose namesake plays for Real's city rivals Atletico, did



Real Madrid's Clarence Seedorf (right) shields the ball from Vasco's Ramon Emperics

superbly, trapping the ball with his left foot, cutting inside a defender and unleashing an unstoppable rising shot with his right foot from 20 yards.

Both teams went close to scoring and Real could have taken the lead after 78 minutes but Savio's powerful downward header was saved by Carlos Germano.

From the break Felipe went on a penetrating run deep into the heart of Real's territory,

leaving two defenders in his wake, but his angled shot, with only Illner to beat, bounced agonisingly wide of the far post.

Raul, though, made no mistake at the other end with just seven minutes to play. Another long, raking pass from Seedorf found Raul, who brilliantly eluded two defenders before planting a perfectly-placed curling right-foot shot wide of the goalkeeper for the winner.

That goal, and his overall

contribution, earned him a Toyota car as man of the match from the sponsors.

Real, whose only previous victory in this competition came in the inaugural match in 1960, followed Ajax (1995), Juventus (1996) and Borussia Dortmund (1997) as recent European winners - the first time that teams from Europe have triumphed for four successive seasons in the competition.

Sheringham hoping to revive his United career

THE STAGE is set for Teddy Sheringham to get his Manchester United career back on track against his former club Tottenham at White Hart Lane tonight.

Sheringham needs a good performance in the Worthington Cup quarter-final to persuade his manager, Alex Ferguson, he is the man to partner Dwight Yorke in attack.

The England striker has started just two games this season, both in the Champions' League, and the last of those was on 30 September against Bayern Munich.

Sheringham has found himself out of favour in the cut-throat battle for striking places at Old Trafford, while he has also missed a large chunk of the campaign with damaged knee ligaments. Sheringham has now recovered from that injury and he made his comeback as a substitute in Sunday's victory over Leeds.

Now he is ready for his third start of the season and Ferguson said: "Teddy Sheringham will figure against Tottenham."

Ryan Giggs, another who is fit again after breaking a bone in his foot, will play and the Norwegian duo of Ole Gunnar Sol-skjaer and Henning Berg are also expected to feature.

Ferguson has used his second string in the Worthington Cup and he knows his team face

a difficult tie against George Graham's side.

He realises that this game will be his Bedfellows' toughest challenge yet after wins over Bury and Nottingham Forest.

"Under George, Spurs have got their show on the road a bit," he said. "Even though they lost on Saturday, going to West Ham is always a difficult game. They have some excellent players and they seem to be a bit fitter now, so it's going to be really tough for us."

Ronny Johnsen, who has missed United's last five games with an ankle injury, could be fit enough to play, while teenagers Jonathan Greening and Mark Wilson stand by for their third outings in the competition. Other youngsters, like Phil Mulryne, John Curtis and Michael Clegg, are also likely to play.

The Blackburn caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, will be without Chris Sutton for tonight's quarter-final at Leicester. Sutton has completed a four-match ban but is still troubled with injury. To make matters worse for Parkes, recent £1m buy Nathan Blake is cup-tied.

That leaves the door open for the club record signing, Kevin Davies, to start alongside the Scottish international Kevin Gallacher. Blackburn are still missing long-term absentees Tim Sherwood, Tim Flowers, Billy McKinlay, Jason Wilcox

and Garry Flitcroft. But French midfielder Sebastien Perez, out for a couple of months with a knee problem, is back.

"We need a win somehow and from somewhere," admitted Parkes, who knows a cup win would boost confidence for the long battle against relegation that lies ahead.

"This is another massive game for us and we will be treating it with the importance of a League fixture. Any competition that offers you Wembley and the possibility of Europe is big," he added.

Blackburn will again include a trio of teenagers in wingers Damien Duff and Damien Johnson, and midfielder David Dunn. Blake drops out of the squad that was on duty at Liverpool on Sunday, while the centre-back Darren Peacock is still missing with a broken toe.

The Blackburn chief executive, John Williams, insists that the club has drawn up a short list and is making "good progress" in the bid to find a successor to Roy Hodgson.

But Rovers' options appeared to have narrowed. The former Ewood Park hero Colin Hendry has distanced himself from a return in a player-manager role by pledging his future to Rangers and the Manchester United chairman, Martin Edwards, will not allow Rovers to talk to Brian Kidd.

Perry knock-out blow to Woodward

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT

FIFTEEN MONTHS into his tenure as England coach, Clive Woodward has yet to send his optimum starting line-up into the international arena. At this rate, he could wait 15 years and still not manage it. No sooner had he welcomed David Rees, his favourite right wing, back into the squad for this weekend's historic confrontation with the Springboks at Twickenham than his favourite left-back, Matt Perry, was sidelined by medical staff who belatedly

decided that concussion, rather than the lingering after-effects of a good Saturday night, was to blame for a sudden outbreak of wooziness.

Perry will not play again for a mandatory three weeks, which is grim news for his country and a near disaster for his club, Bath, who face make-or-break Allied Dunbar Premiership

matches with Northampton and Saracens before Christmas. His likely replacement is the Northampton full-back, Nick Beal, who was a Lion, albeit a peripheral one, during last year's triumphant romp around South Africa. Beal did not exactly cover himself in glory during England's laughably mishandled trip to the southern hemisphere during the summer, of an embarrassingly over-matched back division, only the two Matts, Perry and Dawson, could claim that rare distinction. But he possesses a howitzer of a right boot to go with some genuine gas and his recent form has had more than a little to do with the sharp upturn in Northampton's fortunes.

Woodward is virtually certain to make further alterations to his back division following last weekend's curate's egg effort against the Wallabies. Assuming Rees is fully recovered from his seemingly interminable groin problems - the news from Sale

is positive - he will surely reclaim the No 14 shirt and allow the coach to shift Tony Underwood to left wing. Will Greenwood, another victim of rampant groinism, will return to the centre provided he responds to treatment over the next 24 hours.

As ever, though, the outside-half position remains the great imponderable. Will it be Paul Grayson, dodgy knee willing, or Mike Catt, dodgy radar willing? Or even Alex King, the Wasps stand-off effectively jettisoned by Woodward after the New Zealand leg of the summer tour, but granted the most unexpected of reprieves.

"He provides me with an option at No 10," acknowledged the coach yesterday, a mere five months after deciding that his only option was to book the same player a seat on the earliest flight out of Auckland.

The best King can realistically hope for is a seat on the bench, which will be his for the taking if Grayson succumbs to

Westwood in 'dented trophy' dispute

GOLF

LEE WESTWOOD yesterday reacted to criticism from the Australian Golf Union that he returned his replica of the Australian Open trophy broken and dented. Colin Phillips, the AGU's executive director, said that an explanation was sought from Westwood's manager, Andrew Chandler, after the \$3,500 trophy had to be repaired by a Melbourne jeweller.

Westwood is not defending the title in Adelaide this week, having decided to accept an invitation to the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City in South Africa. From there he commented: "The trophy was returned on 21 September and duly signed for by the Australian Golf Union as being received in perfect condition."

"I am surprised that two days prior to the Million Dollar Challenge and the Australian Open they have decided to air their grievances."

According to Phillips, the cup was broken at the base and had dents in the top when officials opened its velvet-lined shipping box.

The AGU also claim that they learnt indirectly that Westwood was not defending his Australian Open crown. On that Westwood countered: "I



Tiger Woods (centre) enjoys a practice round in preparation for this week's Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa. Allsport

withdrew on 2 September explaining I had been invited to play in the Million Dollar Challenge with the world's top 12 golfers. It is a terrific opportunity for me to play against the

world's best and I believe that any other professional would have made the same decision."

It is not the first time this year that Westwood's withdrawal has upset organisers.

He was criticised for pulling out of the Western Open in Chicago the week after the US Open in June, and he also scratched from the MCI Classic in South Carolina the week

after the Masters in April, citing tiredness.

In Sun City, Westwood is trying to finish his season with a third successive victory, having won twice in Japan last

month to take his tally of successes this year to seven.

Colin Montgomerie, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els are also in the field for the richest prize in golf - around £625,000.

Kiwis geared up to defend title

THE DUBAI Rugby Sevens kicks off this week with Fiji's mantle as the kings of the running game under threat from a strong New Zealand squad defending their title.

The Kiwis, gold medalists at the Commonwealth Games in September, have lost their captain, Eric Rush, to injury. However, the coach, Gordon Tietjens, says he expects a strong showing, with fellow veteran Dallas Seymour taking over the captaincy.

The New Zealanders include the highly rated 19-year-old Rico Gear. "He has a lot of vision and is quick," Tietjens said. "He's a good sevens talent and very much one for the future."

Fiji have been training hard in an effort to take the £15,000 first prize and avenge last year's narrow loss in the final. But Western Samoa, with the hard-hitting prop One Hunga, are also highly rated and Rory Underwood's England select should prove no pushovers.

The competition also involves Tonga, France, Scotland, Canada, the United States and rank outsiders Morocco and Chinese Taipei.

Pat Howard and Fritz van Heerden return to the Leicester side following a six-week absence in tomorrow night's tour game against Fiji at Welford Road. Australian centre

Howard (broken jaw) and South African lock van Heerden (toe injury) were both hurt during Leicester's defeat by London Irish on 20 October.

The Tigers, Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders, will hope that both players emerge unscathed ahead of a tough trip to the League champions, Newcastle, in 11 days' time.

"It is a big return for both of them in what is a very big game," the Leicester manager, Dean Richards, said. "Fiji will want to finish their tour in style, and have only lost one match so far. It's our aim to make that two defeats, and the comeback of Pat and Fritz can only help."

Scotland's crushing 85-11 victory over Portugal on Saturday was put in perspective yesterday as the Iberian visitors changed over half the side for their own World Cup meeting with Spain at Murrayfield tonight. Only three of the XV which started against Jim Telfer's side begin in the same positions against the Spanish, confirming the suspicion that Scotland were facing what amounted to a second-string Portuguese side.

In all there are eight new faces in the starting line-up, with four further positional changes, the versatile flanker Miguel Portela finding himself on the left wing.

England forced to relive nightmare

ENGLAND ARE having to endure 'severe sub-zero temperatures in Kiev before tonight's European Championship semi-final round with the Ukraine - and that is just in the hotel. Their coach, Laszlo Nemeth, and his players are reliving the nightmare of last season's trip to Belarus, when the team were fed pot noodles and biscuits because of the poor food.

That trip prompted a player protest, backed by Nemeth, who was suspended before his squad made it clear they would not appear for the national team unless he was reinstated.

"My players are in a psychological war. Their rooms are sub-zero and the temperature outside is minus 14 degrees Fahrenheit," Nemeth said.

Nemeth, a Hungarian, hinted that he might be better suited to surviving than his players. "Westerners are not used to coping with these elements. You always expect hard trips to

Britain bound for Olympic venue

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

Before that, Britain will meet Australia in Brisbane and New Zealand in Auckland. The free team at each of those matches will play the extra team, to be decided between the likes of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa by qualifying matches earlier next year.

Louis Luyt, the former president of the South African Rugby Union, is pressing for regular international events at Ellis Park in Johannesburg and is keen to stage the World Nines there.

A decision has yet to be made, however, on whether that tournament should be revived next year or in 2000.

France have offered to stage one of the qualifying groups for the World Cup, scheduled for Britain in 2000. A decision is

Ulster expect sell-out for Toulouse Cup tie

ULSTER OFFICIALS are expecting their first sell-out crowd for 12 years to watch Friday week's European Cup quarter-final against Toulouse in Belfast. Ravenhill's 12,000 capacity should be reached by close of business tonight, according to the Ulster chief executive, Michael Reid.

"The last time we had a sell-out was for the All Blacks' visit 12 years ago," he said. "We've been getting great crowds at Ravenhill for our European Cup matches staged on a Friday night, and the atmosphere when Toulouse were there in the pool stage was superb."

Toulouse currently have a more pressing engagement to worry about - their appearance before a European Rugby Cup disciplinary panel in Dublin next Monday.

The tournament director, Roger Pickering, has requested that sanctions be taken against the Toulouse French international prop, Franck Tournaire, for alleged threatening behaviour towards a touch judge after the defeat at Ebbw Vale on 7 November.

Other unnamed Toulouse players and members of the official club party are also in the dock for their part in alleged related incidents.

The panel will consist of the ERC chairman, Tom Kiernan, Charlie Bisset (Scottish Rugby Union) and Terry Burwell (Rugby Football Union).

Toulouse have since apologised to Ebbw Vale, who won the match 19-11, via a telephone call from their chief executive, Jean-Luc Bromont, on behalf of the club president, Rene Bouscatel.

"Through their chief executive we were offered a very profuse apology on behalf of their president," said the Ebbw Vale chief executive, Ray Harris. "They also added that they were sorry their behaviour after the game had detracted from our victory."

Tournaire could receive a ban, which would probably rule him out of the Ulster quarter-final, with financial penalties likely to be imposed on Toulouse. Pontypridd, Brive, Llanelli and Pau all received five-figure fines last season following on-pitch violence which marred the competition, which was eventually won by Bath.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL: San Francisco 49ers 31 New York Giants 7

BASEBALL

Baltimore Orioles have completed their \$65m, five-year contract with Albert Belle making the controversial slugger the highest-paid player in franchise history.

BASKETBALL

Jose Ortiz, the Puerto Rican who played with Utah Jazz before trying his luck in Europe, has had a two-year drug ban confirmed by Fiba, the international basketball federation. Ortiz twice tested positive for stanozolol, in August and September, while with the Greek club PAOK Salonika.

BOXING

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTIONS: British middleweight championship (Manchester): H. Eason (London) vs F. Foster (Manchester) on 17 Feb. Commonwealth light-welterweight championship: P. Burke (Manchester) vs E. Magee (Belfast) on 19 Feb.

CYCLING

Three Festina riders were told by a French judge yesterday they had failed drug tests during this year's Tour de France. The Frenchmen Richard Virenque, the former world champion Laurent Brochard and Pascal Hervé were invited by the Lille investigating magistrate, Patrick Kell, to hear the test results after they filed a petition to have access to his report.

SPORTING DIGEST

FOOTBALL
Mustapha Hadji, the Moroccan midfielder, was yesterday named Africa's Footballer of the Year by the Confederation of African Football in Cairo.

SUSPENSIONS: FA Cup: Birmingham suspended from 5 December; Arsenal suspended from 5 December; Tottenham suspended from 5 December; Manchester United suspended from 5 December; Liverpool suspended from 5 December; Chelsea suspended from 5 December; Everton suspended from 5 December; Newcastle suspended from 5 December; Aston Villa suspended from 5 December; Blackburn suspended from 5 December; Derby suspended from 5 December; Nottingham Forest suspended from 5 December; Sheffield Wednesday suspended from 5 December; Wimbledon suspended from 5 December; Ipswich suspended from 5 December; Norwich suspended from 5 December; Southampton suspended from 5 December; Millwall suspended from 5 December; Barnsley suspended from 5 December; Bury suspended from 5 December; Luton suspended from 5 December; Watford suspended from 5 December; Middlesbrough suspended from 5 December; Huddersfield suspended from 5 December; Preston suspended from 5 December; Blackpool suspended from 5 December; Shrewsbury suspended from 5 December; 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SPORT

MALLETT, THE SPRINGBOK HAMMER P24 • RABBITS AND DUCKS ROASTED P25

Strachan
is Rovers'
new target

BLACKBURN ROVERS are making an ambitious move to tempt Gordon Strachan to leave Coventry City and become their manager.

Rovers have switched targets quickly after being rejected by Manchester United yesterday in their official approach for Brian Kidd, the assistant manager at Old Trafford, Coventry's chairman, Bryan Richardson, will be asked if he will let Strachan speak to Blackburn about the £750,000 a year post.

Last week Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chief executive, claimed the highly-coveted Kidd would only leave Old Trafford "over my dead body" and not surprisingly he has turned Rovers down.

Edwards claims Kidd, who has also been sought by Manchester City and Everton in the past, has no problems with United's decision, even though he could have quadrupled his salary with Rovers.

Strachan could be interested in the move but Coventry want compensation of close to £1m, a figure that scared off Leeds United but will not worry Jack Walker, Blackburn's owner. Walker had put Strachan at No 2 on his wanted list behind Kidd, who has a four-year contract at Old Trafford.

Colin Hendry remains in the picture despite indicating yesterday that his future lies with Rangers.

Leeds remain confident of signing David Batty from Newcastle even though the two clubs are unable to agree a fee for the England midfielder. They are believed to have offered £4m for Batty, who they sold to Blackburn in 1993, £2m below the Magpies' apparent asking price.

Nevertheless, the Yorkshire

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

club's chairman, Peter Ridsdale, believes Batty, 30 today, will be returning to Leeds, although he was in no mood to have his arm twisted by Newcastle.

"Our manager [David O'Leary] has made it absolutely clear that David Batty is a player that he admires and would like to bring back to Leeds United," Ridsdale said. "We have made a bid. That bid currently falls short of Newcastle's valuation but at the end of the day, we won't overpay for players."

It is thought that if Leeds were to increase their offer to £4.5m then they would clinch a deal. The agreement of Batty's personal terms is seemingly a formality.

Batty turned up for training at Newcastle's Chester-le-Street training headquarters yesterday morning four days after apparently taking his leave when he handed in a written transfer request to the St James' manager, Ruud Gulit.

Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd yesterday launched an attempt to return to the board of Newcastle United's plc. Already back on the football club's board as the chairman and vice-chairman respectively, they now appear very likely to return to the plc's board as well, reclaiming their places from the two men who have been their representatives on the board, John Fender and Tom Fenton.

In July, when the pair were reinstated to the club board, they signed letters which appeared to state that they did not intend to rejoin the plc.

The pair left both boards after mocking Newcastle fans for paying high prices for replica kits, dubbing Alan Shearer "Mary Poppins" and branding Tyneside women "dogs".

Ian Rush will be asked to take over as the manager of Wrexham as part of a major takeover by Steve Morgan, the millionaire owner of the house building firm, Redrow. Morgan, who is based in Jersey, is close to tying up a deal worth about £2m to buy the club and pump more cash into the Second Division club.

Morgan met Wrexham officials yesterday to thrash out the price of the purchase and be expected to be in charge of the Welsh club before the weekend. A lifelong fan, Morgan wants to install Rush as manager above Brian Flynn in a bid to attract bigger name players and go for promotion.

Wolves have rejected an approach for their captain, Keith Curle, from their First Division rivals Bristol City. Wolves' new manager, Colin Lea, is planning to offer the 35-year-old a new contract.

Manchester City have placed Murtagh Snela, the Georgian international, on the transfer list. The defender is surplus to requirements following the arrival of Andy Morrison from Huddersfield.

Darren Ferguson, the Wolves midfielder and son of the Manchester United manager, has joined Cosenza in Italian Serie B on a 10-day trial with a view to a permanent transfer.

Paul Hall, Coventry's Jamaican World Cup winger, last night turned down a £300,000 move to Port Vale. Robin Bernstein, who was on loan to Vale from Trossno, has returned to Norway.



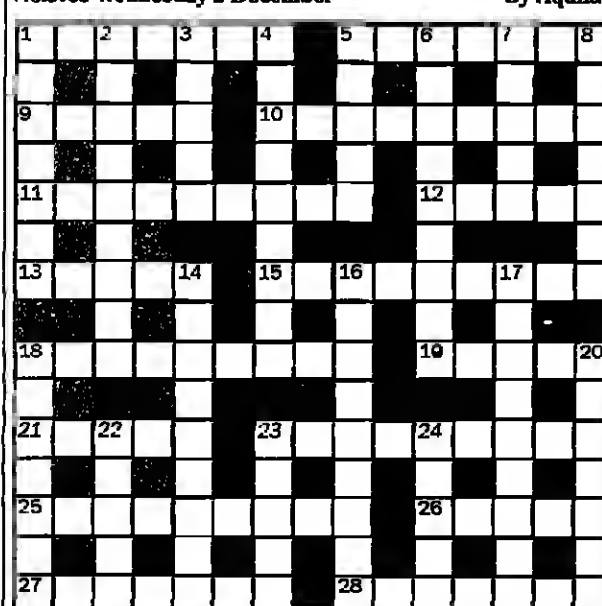
Manuel Sanchis (left) and Fernando Hierro, of Real Madrid, hold aloft the Intercontinental Cup and Toyota Cup after the Spanish club's 2-1 victory over Brazil's Vasco da Gama in the World Club Championship in Tokyo yesterday. Real, the European Cup holders, last won the annual contest between the top clubs from Europe and South America in 1990. Report, page 28; photograph AFP

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3783 Wednesday 2 December

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



SWANSEA CLOTHES
USPUGG
DISCOMPLY HAUT
DALE HAN
ERSON CASTELLAN
NASTY
DISCRIMINATORY
CONGREGATIONAL
SELU
HOWAREYOU WILLY
ON LIE
UPEND POISONGAS
SALE
ENLARGE NOTISOME

- ACROSS**
- Lamb after highball, say, could be a bloomer (7)
 - Constant, modern rattling noise (7)
 - Tree which could hide a king now? (5)
 - Artist mad to turn playwright (9)
 - Maximum displacement of crust here, from recent pie-throwing (9)
 - Harvest meagre, after good start (5)
 - Off-peak call (5)
 - Judgment on the way? (4,5)
 - Type of injunction to tired porter? (5,4)
 - Hidden store of banknotes and coin, say? (5)
 - Some Scandinavians come back in limousines

- DOWN**
- Former individual to assess discharge (9)
 - He strains to get out of spots (9)
 - But did they increase, these followers of Abou Ben Adhem? (5)
 - Bizarre aspect of a man excluded from a group? (7)
 - Arresting entails shuffles (7)
 - In the main, cathedral supports endlessly slow music (7)
 - Front-of-house arc-light? (3,6)
 - Charge for exercising a horse (5)
 - Check on old air-conditioning in houses here?

- ACROSS**
- Box at lightweight? (5)
 - Clean gas administered as pain-reliever (9)
 - Twinkling of an eccentric elf (5)
 - Followers note can in French street (7)
 - Vicar lied about who polished off the grub (9)
 - Establishments serving hitler families? Not necessarily (9)
 - Variety of peach making heavenly drink in orient (9)
 - Country hotel so vandalised (7)
 - He is one (7)
 - Provided with equipment for a stroke, possibly? (5)
 - Distinctive character of Egyptian tom? (5)
 - Crack up, running through Essex toll-gate (5)

Jones wanted at Turf Moor Everton caught by video nasty

WINNIE JONES is close to upping lock, stock and barrel and heading north from Queen's Park Rangers to aid an old ally at Burnley, providing a settlement can be agreed with the west London club.

The QPR player-coach, who has been picking up his £4,000 a week wages despite staying away from Loftus Road since Ray Harford resigned two months ago, is interested in linking-up with Stan Ternent at Turf Moor.

Rangers transfer-listed Jones a fortnight ago and were hoping to collect a fee for the Welsh international. But Ternent, who worked with him at Chelsea, wants Jones on loan. Jones said: "I've known Stan for years. I was at Chelsea with him and we have been friends for a long time. Of course, I would talk to him. But it's between the two clubs—they have got to come to an agreement."

Ternent has a player-coach role in mind for Jones but the move could hinge on Jones' willingness to agree a wage cut. Meanwhile, Gerry Francis, who has returned to QPR for a second spell in charge, is ready to invest his own money in the club and purchase thousands of shares after being named Nationwide League Manager of the Month for November.

Francis has done a remarkable job since Harford left, guiding his team to four wins in the last five games. QPR have already scored more goals in five weeks under Francis than

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

in the previous three months. And they have also won twice as many away games in the last fortnight than QPR had managed in the previous year.

He said: "I have already bought a million shares in Loftus Road plc and I am now looking to buy a lot more. I'm not about to take over the club or anything like that, but if the shares become available then I will buy them. If it all comes off, I should own a fair percentage of the club and that way I'll know there is nothing going on above my head."

Problem pitch may hit Darlington hopes

DARLINGTON'S money-spinning FA Cup second-round tie against Manchester City could be called off because the Feethams pitch has been branded dangerous, writes Alan Nixon.

Inspectors from the Football Association will look at the ground this morning following an official complaint by Scarborough, who were beaten 3-0 on the tricky surface last Saturday.

If the FA agree then the tie, scheduled to be shown live on Friday night, may be postponed or rearranged at another venue.

The Feethams turf is only

"I think buying shares in the club also shows you are committed in more ways than one. And even if I was to leave as manager, I would still want to keep them. I have been involved in this club in one way or another for 17 years and it's in my heart. This shows how serious I am."

"A lot of fans bought shares in the company at a good price and then saw them go down to as little as 5p. Now, hopefully, we can help those supporters get their money back and move this club up the League."

Rangers, however, are still £5.5m in debt and third from

bottom in the First Division.

Francis added: "We have a long way to go because we have won 12 points in November but are still in the bottom three. That shows what a state the club was in. But our aim now is to get to 52 points as soon as possible—that is how many I think we will need to stay up."

Francis hopes his return to Loftus Road and his immediate success will help fans get over the lean years when he was at Tottenham. "I've watched QPR's results and felt for the fans. Unfortunately, when I was at Tottenham I was responsible for two wins against them which helped send the club down. But I didn't feel guilty. I never wanted to leave QPR in the first place—it was made clear that I wasn't wanted there. So I had to go."

"The fans knew that, and they gave me a standing ovation when I went back there with Tottenham. Now I can pay them back by getting things right again. I believe in my ability to do it."

"When I took over at Spurs, they had just been beaten 3-0 by Notts County in the Cup—and Notts County were bottom of the Third Division. Tottenham were also in the bottom four and had no cash. But I turned it around quickly and was manager of the month in December and went on to get a club record 50 games with only four defeats. We've done it a month early at QPR and we want to end up with the same kind of record."

Jones wanted at Turf Moor Everton caught by video nasty

BY ALAN NIXON

Everton have cancelled the sale of a special edition video—because Duncan Ferguson's face is on the front cover of the tape.

The embarrassed Goodison club have called off a launch of a celebration of derby victories over Liverpool, which features some of the club's legends.

On the cover, Ferguson is seen saluting a goal but now he is being hurriedly removed from the central shot after his controversial £8m sale to Newcastle United. A new edition is being put together in an attempt to rush out a Fergie-free product in time for Christmas.

The Football Association have declared their intention to resolve the misconduct case against Nottingham Forest following the "bungs" inquiry early next year after criticism from the club at the delay.

Forest's chief executive, Phil Soar, told the club's annual meeting the 11-month delay since the charges were made was an "absolute disgrace". Forest were charged with misconduct for "failing to properly supervise their employees" in a number of transfer dealings which took place while the club was managed by Brian Clough in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Elizabeth
David's final
recipe: take
one culinary
saint, two
rival books,
add wine and
sex and stir to
boiling point



BY ANN TRENEMAN

Lisa Chaney opens the door of her house in York wearing an red apron with white polka dots. Somehow she manages to look fantastic in this, which isn't fair because, as the unauthorised biographer of the sainted food writer Elizabeth David, she really should look stressed to the hilt. It has taken a huge amount of patience and plain old detective work to discover the secrets of this almost pathologically private woman. In the end she did it, though. The book is full of drink and lovers, including one wildly romantic adventure with a man in a boat. And there's lots of basil, too.

Lisa Chaney did all of this without one smidgeon of help from Elizabeth David's literary executor, Jill Norman. Jill doesn't approve of Lisa's book, and that certainly is no secret. There is a culinary scandal brewing here, though neither Lisa nor Jill will say as much. Lisa's book, *Elizabeth David: A Mediterranean Passion*, has just come out. It is a doorman of a biography, but reads like the wind. Perhaps it is no coincidence that, in the end, she had to write like the wind. The pressure was on because Jill had commissioned an authorised biography from Artemis Cooper, who has had access to everything that Lisa was denied: all Elizabeth David's notebooks, letters sent to her, and her drafts of letters sent. Artemis Cooper describes it as a "stunning archive". It will, says Artemis, allow her to tell "the whole story". Or, as Jill Norman puts it, "someone had to make it accurate".

Lisa is worried that I am going to write only about the culinary row, and it is tempting. This, for instance, is Jill Norman on whether she considered giving Lisa access: "Well, I didn't think about it very long. On dear, it is difficult. It sounds very negative but I wasn't sure that she was a very competent biographer. The proposal that she put forward - she didn't send it to me but I was told about it - was full of factual inaccuracies. This didn't give me much confidence. I don't particularly want to knock the woman in print because that doesn't do anybody any good."

OK, I say, let's talk about the book and not the woman. Had she read it? "I've seen the proofs. There was a lot of material in it for which they

hadn't requested permission, so some changes were made. I didn't feel it was appropriate that so much unpublished material should be quoted. Elizabeth David was a very private person and the last thing she would have wanted would be that the letters she had written as a young woman had, first of all, still survived in the family attic and that somebody proposed to make them public. So I put my foot down."

She also, it may be said, put the price up, even for the letters, mentioned above, that were discovered solely through Lisa's efforts. Jill Norman says she charged Society of Authors' rates for use of copyright. The society quotes me those rates as £95 to £115 per 1,000 words for one edition. In fact, Jill Norman has charged substantially more – at least four times more – though this does include paperback rights, and these things can fluctuate according to market value. Also, as Jill Norman points out, she could have simply forbidden the use of all material.

"But I didn't see the point. That would have been vindictive."

How Elizabeth David would have loved this! Perhaps not the book, but certainly the chaos. After all, this is a woman who died in 1992 at the age of 78 leaving a will that had six codicils. "The whole thing really was a hornet's nest," says Lisa. "At a certain point I really wasn't sure I hadn't taken on something I could cope with. One time I'd had a bad day and I said to one of her friends whom I was interviewing: I don't know if I can do this. And she said to me: Elizabeth will be up there cackling away at you."

So how did an academic whose subjects are philosophy, art history and aesthetics get involved in this? She says: I can come to lunch in York and she'll tell me. Her guard is up. I think she suspects that I am a secret foodie. But I am not even an amateur foodie. In fact, until this assignment I've had no relationship with Elizabeth David except via the odd fresh herb. Yes, I know that she revolutionised the way the English see food, etc etc, so I suppose that I have in some way been affected. But I did not cook my first dinner party from her books; I did not fall in love with Italy through her prose; I have never gushed about her in a public place.

It doesn't take long to realise that I am the odd one out on this. Everyone I talk to seems to think they own a piece of Elizabeth. One act-

ually does, having received her outmeat grater (with pre-used nutmeg *in situ*) as a wedding present from a friend who attended the 1994 Phillips auction of her goods. But even those bereft of graters have opinions. "You know, the really interesting question is whether she was a spy," said one friend. "You know, the really interesting question is whether she was a lesbian," said another. "You know, I really want to know if she was a drunk," said a third.

I ask all these questions before I have even got rid of my coat. Lisa looks stunned but answers well - No, Kind Of and Not Quite being the gist of her answers to the three questions. I only run out of questions briefly over lunch because my mouth is full. "It's wonderful that you are so ignorant," says Lisa. "Foodie people can be very competitive about this. Elizabeth hated all that." Well, I'm with Elizabeth on that. Lisa is soothing. "Elizabeth hated the idea of food as fashion. She hated pretension. So much food now is down to fashion. People don't have time to cook at home. Or they go out to very smart restaurants. Elizabeth loved restaurants, but she was very fussy and could be terribly rude. She wasn't a snob about where she went, though."

We are, it turns out, eating rabbit terrine without the rabbit. I nod. Instead, it is pheasant. I nod again. This is way over my head. I was just pleased to be eating Elizabeth David's food while talking about her.

Lisa is now 45, but first came across her subject through a copy of *French Provincial Cooking* at the age of 17. Then she used *Italian Cooking* as her guidebook when she went to Florence. Elizabeth David, both as a person and a writer, was a name that came up in discussion a lot over her seven years in Italy. Lisa Chaney was getting hooked and she didn't even know it

was getting noisier and she didn't even know it. Back in England, she found out that Elizabeth David had vilified her books to the Warburg Institute. "That told me a great deal because it means she wanted to be remembered as a scholar," says Lisa. "That fits with the latter part of her life. If she died anything, it was as a scholar." At this point, she knew enough to know that she knew nothing, and that is always a good place to start. "I would meet people who knew her, and they said the usual things. That she didn't suffer fools gladly, was very impressive and rather scary. That she was very intelligent, with an

extraordinary memory. It was often suggested that I should try to meet her, but I knew she was rather scary and I thought it was quite possible that she would say: well, why would I want to see you? So I never did.

"Then, after she died, I wanted to look at her books, and that is how it really began."

She went to look at the books, expecting thousands. Instead, two trolley-loads were wheeled out. There were 380. She asked around. Elizabeth David had had between 4,000 and 10,000 books. So where were they? She asked around some more. Gradually, as she discovered what happened to those books, she realised that people were telling her wonderful stories about their owner. Lisa already believed that Elizabeth David had been a huge influence on all of us, even down to the design of our kitchens. She thought Elizabeth David's Mediterranean books were about fantasy and travel writing, but believed that her later works on English food, and how to restore it to its pre-industrial simplicity, were her masterpieces.

She wrote an article in *The Spectator* and soon people starting asking her if she was doing a biography. Soon, it seemed she was. She visited Elizabeth's only remaining sister, Priscilla. Their planned half-hour meeting turned into a seven-hour one. She signed with her publishers, Macmillan, in 1995.

At this point Lisa Chaney had no idea what a wild life Elizabeth David had led. She knew the writer had been born into privilege, that her father had been an MP and that she had gone abroad just before the war, had lived around the Mediterranean during it and had come back later. She knew she had been a deb and an actress – not a very good one – and had had lovers and crazy times from early on. Gradually she began to hear about a man in a boat, or even two men in a boat, but no one had any real details. This went on for a year as she interviewed and interviewed. Then, finally, Eve Durrell said: “Of course I knew Charles.”

The hair stood up on her neck. Charles Gibson Cowan was the ultimate outsider. He was working class, left wing, Jewish, an actor, a pickpocket, a vagabond, who lived in caves in Hastings for a time. Her mother called him a "pacifist worm". He was a sexual presence, and

Continued on page 8

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INSIDE	Letters	2	Arts	10-11	Secretarial	19-20	FINANCE
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Fashion	12-13	Radio	23	
	Obituaries	6-7	Money	14-15	Satellite TV	23	
	Features	8-9	Finance	16-18	Today's TV	24	

Europe: in or out

Sir: Frederick Forsyth (letter, 1 December) pinpoints the central issue of the debate about our membership of the European Union. The EU is of course committed to "ever closer union" and always has been since the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Co-operation in fields such as trade, justice, freedom of movement, environmental protection and the single currency are simply steps in that process of integration.

He is absolutely right that joining the single currency is the crux of the debate about our future world role and that there should be no more delay in declaring our position. However, it is dangerous to suggest that if we do not embrace the single currency within a reasonable period, say four years at the most, the member states in the euro will allow us to remain indefinitely as a semi-detached member of the Union. Nor will they be particularly keen to allow us to negotiate a "sovereignty-based trading relationship". When we have shown such lack of solidarity, why should they?

I agree that indecisiveness is sapping our national will and the Government ought to declare its hand soon, but we must face up to political reality. The majority of the EU will not tolerate our continued membership if we adopt a policy of refusing ever to join the EMU. We would in the end have to leave the EU and the impact on sterling, inward investment and our standing in the world would be calamitous. Life on our own on the outside will be one of comparative instability, dwindling national significance and economic decline.

Let us show the national courage that has been displayed by the Republic of Ireland and commit ourselves confidently to the ideal of a European Union for the next millennium.
NEIL MONTGOMERY
Woodbridge, Suffolk

Sir: Lord Howe and the other signatories of the European Movement's letter (30 November) should know better. Tax harmonisation is not an optional extra in the single currency area. It is an essential element of the single currency project without which it will fall apart.

Supporters of Britain joining the single currency talk glibly about the benefits to British consumers of the price transparency that would result (they obviously assume that we cannot use calculators).

They ignore the social and economic damage that will be caused by tax transparency unless taxes are harmonised. People living within a single economy, with a single market and a single currency, must face the same tax rates throughout, otherwise there will be social unrest as people in one part of the economy complain that their tax rates are higher than those paid by their neighbours in another part of the same economy.

The other obvious result of variations in tax rates is that companies will tend to move to areas of lower taxation, causing unemployment in areas of higher taxation. Herr Lafontaine is only too aware of that, which is precisely why he wants to "harmonise" our tax rates with those in the single currency area.
SALLY COTTERWAITE
Brentwood, Essex

Sir: If luxuries sold to international travellers are to continue to be "duty-free" on the grounds that imposing normal taxes would lead to substantial job losses, surely the avowed goal of reducing unemployment in the EU would be better served by making wages and savings "duty free".
DR JAMES THOMPSON
London W1

No nuclear peace

Sir: In answer to Dr Stephen Pullinger (letter, 28 November) it should be pointed out that nuclear weapons did not prevent the Falklands war nor the Gulf war nor countless wars since 1945

which have lost millions of lives. There has to be a more imaginative response. The real threat to security will come not from states but from armed gangs. In this instance nuclear weapons would be useless. What would have been the point of nuclear weapons against the IRA?

Prevention by encouraging the growth of democracy and freedom is infinitely better than pouring billions into weapons that can never be used.
ANDREW J T KERR
Jedburgh,
Northumberland

NHS rationing

Sir: The letter by a mother of a schizophrenic boy (30 November) highlights a dangerous tendency in current NHS planning. Attempts to off-load the responsibility for rationing on to the shoulders of doctors are becoming increasingly attractive to politicians. The last government managed to draw funding from GPs into the rationing role. The present government looks set to make the same mistake through the setting up of Primary Care Groups.

While doctors may be in a good position to judge which patients have the greatest need for resources or who may benefit most, they have no control over the amount of resources available. In a democratic country, where the NHS remains one of the most treasured possessions of our community, decisions regarding the provisions of services and medication should remain in the political arena, where the electorate may exercise their will.

Devolution of rationing to GPs not only creates the variable provision described by your correspondent, but it also deprives every patient of a true advocate within the health service. If a GP is having to balance the demands of several thousand patients, he cannot do his best for the individual.

Rationing of health resources is an important topic and requires a

balanced and informed public debate so that the electorate may decide what they want. The press and the media have an important role to play in leading such a debate and in ensuring that successive governments do not avoid their responsibilities.
DR NICHOLAS LEACH FRCP
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire

Sir: There is nothing like a stay in a foreign hospital to make you appreciate the NHS in Britain.

I recently spent three days in a Prague hospital after being knocked down by a taxi and sustaining a fractured pelvis. I was treated with kindness by doctors and nurses but soon became aware that the prescribed treatment and the nursing care were many years behind those of the UK - only to be expected in a country which is taking its first uncertain steps to democracy and whose resources are severely stretched.

When I was transferred home to Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport, it was like entering paradise in comparison with what had gone before: bright, spacious, welcoming wards, a thorough check of my condition by a doctor who discovered injuries not

Sir: Perhaps the downturn in textile sales can be explained by this season's fashion colours. High street shops look like funeral parlours. Who wants to spend the winter in a combination of black and grey?
MARY D ESSINGER
Leicester

Sir: I read with amusement Miles Kingston's further selection of Albanian proverbs (26 November). I am a "nobody" who can remember who Alzheimer was. Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915) was a German neuro-pathologist who, in 1907, documented the first case of Alzheimer's disease. She was a

previously noted, and who prescribed up-to-date treatment. Above all, I noticed that the standard of nursing care was on an altogether higher level.

All is not perfect with our NHS, but it will be a long time before I shall speak ill of it.
MRS J M BUDD
Bramhall, Cheshire

Pinochet's law

Sir: As a Chilean exile, I believe there are many reasons why Pinochet should not be sent back to Chile.

There are still many prosecutions in 25 years and last month a female judge was sacked for refusing to pass on a case to the military courts. A case in Chile against Pinochet would most definitely go to a military court, where Pinochet would be welcomed by old friends (all protected by the same amnesty law he wrote himself). A successful criminal prosecution is practically impossible.

The crimes committed under Pinochet are against international law on human rights and therefore it is correct for them to be judged internationally.

IN BRIEF

woman of 51 who had died after suffering from dementia. Initially Alzheimer's name was given to the "pre-senile" form of dementia, but today the term covers the full age range. OK Miles? Don't forget!
ELIZABETH SHIPWAY
Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear

Sir: The saying "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" was not said by Voltaire (letter, 24 November). It was first attributed to him more than a century after his

If the Government is seriously considering letting Pinochet go back to Chile then I believe it is their responsibility to ensure that Pinochet is actually tried in a criminal court with independent judges in a fair and correct manner. Without such a guarantee, the only decision should be extradition. Chile has had 25 years to bring Pinochet to justice; let us celebrate next week's 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights with justice.
MARIA VASQUEZ-AGUILAR
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

End this flummery

Sir: Your leading article (24 November) advocating ending the tradition of the Queen's opening of Parliament set my mind to what other constitutional "flummery" could be done away with; other long-standing examples of pointless ceremonial pomp that aren't required in a modern democracy.

The coronation for example. Is there really any need for a huge grand bit of feudal pageantry when a new sovereign takes the place of their predecessor? Wouldn't it be much more in accord with the aspirations of modern forward-thinking Britain to simplify this

death in S G Tallentyre's book *The Friends of Voltaire* (1906), to express his attitude towards Helvetius's book *De l'esprit* when it was banned in 1759.

However, he never said or thought anything of the kind, believing neither in absolute freedom of speech nor in risking his life in such a cause.
ANNA FREEMAN
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

Sir: "State may take over failing rail firms," you report on 26 November. Oh for a Mussolini to make the trains run on time!
IFOR PAGE
Buxton, Derbyshire

constitutional requirement as much as possible?

Perhaps if the Archbishop of Canterbury simply drove up to the palace and ... No. In a modern multi-denominational United Kingdom all constitutional reference to religion ought to be done away with. It would be better if the Lord Chancellor were to simply drive up to ... The Lord Chancellor? That office is a complete anachronism itself and ought to be abolished forthwith.

It would be best if a nice young man from the United Parcel Service were to deliver the Crown Jewels packed in bubble pad to the Palace. The King could then have himself crowned at his convenience, retire to his study, and e-mail the Coronation Oath to the nation and Commonwealth. This would surely go a long way toward modernising and streamlining the monarchy and ensuring the institution's continued popularity.
TREVOR PICKERSGILL
Akita Prefecture,
Japan

Bundles of dignity

Sir: Paul Valéry (Spirit of the Age, 28 November) quotes Ian Markham as saying that "if ultimately humans are nothing more than complex bundles of atoms emerging from a blind and irrational process and facing extinction when we die, then it is difficult to see how we can affirm the inherent dignity of people."

Nonsense. As I see it, it is precisely because of us having emerged from this "blind and irrational" process, which underlines our uniqueness and the rarity of the phenomenon of life itself in our vast universe, that we can grant ourselves this "inherent" dignity.

Contrarily, I see no dignity conferred upon humanity by the belief that we were created by some divinity who needed someone to worship him.
MICHAEL WRIST-KNUDSEN
Ely, Cambridgeshire

Tatchell the martyr

Sir: How ironical that you should be giving such massive coverage to the Oscar Wilde monument (which is long overdue), whilst using your editorial to describe Peter Tatchell's protest against Archbishop Carey as "childish and counterproductive, fixing in the public mind the image of gay rights campaigners as irresponsible extremists" (1 December).

The Church of England, under Carey's leadership, continues to preach homophobia and cause misery to gay clergy and gay Christians. In the wider social context, such prejudice voiced by the established church underpins street attacks against lesbians and gay men and justifies discrimination in the workplace, over housing and in most areas of civil law and within the criminal justice system.

I wonder if in a hundred years time we will be raising a statue to Tatchell. He is a saint, one of freedom's warriors battling against prejudice and discrimination.
CHRIS FARRAH-MILLS
Hove, East Sussex

Sir: So Peter Tatchell challenges the way the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act 1860 gives the church "privileged protection against protest" ("Stars of stage and pulpit will support 'indecent' Tatchell", 30 November). The Act does no such thing: it is merely one of several Acts which can be used to punish protesters.

A few years ago a former colleague of mine received a three months prison sentence for a loud protest at a borough council meeting. He was charged under the Public Order Act. I see no evidence that that particular Act gives local councillors "privileged protection from protest".
W G WINTLE
Southampton, Hampshire

Sir: Since Tony Benn is defending the right of Peter Tatchell to interrupt the Archbishop during a sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, may we now assume that this defender of Parliament will uphold Mr Tatchell's right to push the Prime Minister aside at the Despatch Box in the House of Commons - unless, of course, the Sergeant at Arms stops him first. Is this what is meant by freedom of speech?
ROBERT M E PATERSON
Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan

Sober pubs

Sir: In response to Professor David Ball's comments on "pub hours peril" (letter, 27 November), we have for long proposed more relaxed licensing hours, primarily because we believe that drinking within the socially controlled environment of the traditional pub acts as a barrier to excessive consumption.

Over-consumption of alcohol is often the result of social, cultural or even genetic problems. It is fuelled by poverty, unemployment, and low self-esteem. It is not a coincidence that the group which has been most affected by such problems is young men within the 18-26 category, precisely the group that is rightly associated with "circuit" drinking (prolonged and often troublesome pub crawls around city centres).

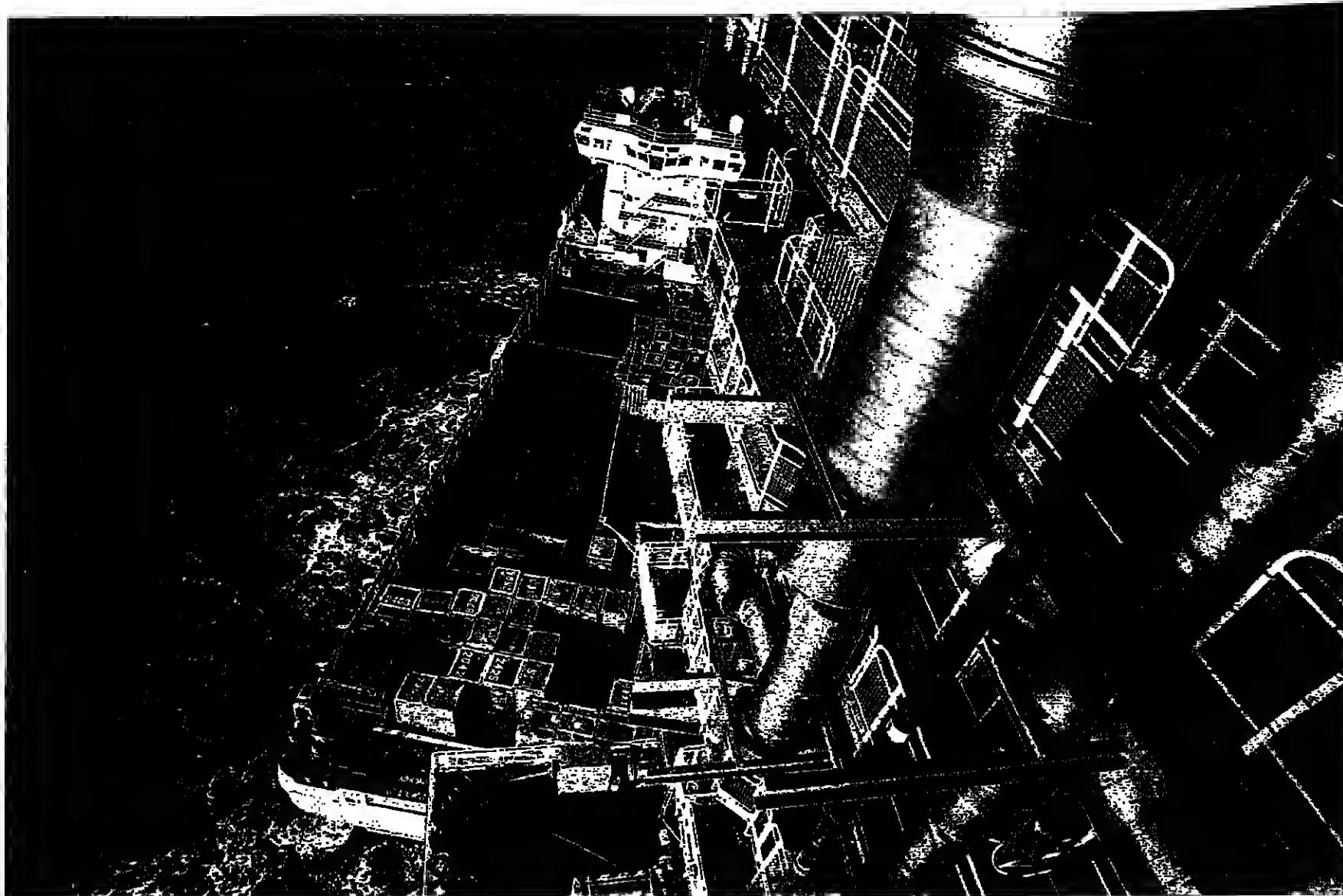
Individuals are not going to stop over-drinking merely because access to pubs is restricted. On the contrary, making the traditional pub a less comfortable or available outlet will focus these problem drinkers on the less easily regulated off-trade, and will result in far more social order problems, not less.
DAVID HAWKINS
Campaign for Real Ale
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Egg and chicken

Sir: I regret to inform Ed Clarke (letter, 30 November) that it is very simple to reverse the process of turning an egg into an omelette - just feed the omelette to a hen. Yes, time is reversible (in small doses, at least).
FRANK BODDY
Sheffield

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Roaring Forties No 3: The supply ship *Skand Hawk* moored alongside the Nelson platform in the North Sea. The ship makes an eight-hour trip from Aberdeen every six days carrying provisions for the crew and materials for the running of the platform
Neville Elder

Why an Oxford degree is not a complete waste of time

RECENTLY THEY have been serialising Alain-Fournier's classic French novel *Le Grand Meaulnes* on Radio 4. After what must have been a lengthy debate on how to translate the title of the novel into English, they have come to a big decision. They have decided to call it *Le Grand Meaulnes*. I approve of this.

I have come to believe over the years that nothing can ever be satisfactorily translated, and should always be left as is. Let me set out my qualifications for saying so first.

I spent three years at Oxford (the gap between school and real life) studying French and French literature. Looking back, I think I might have spent that time more profitably doing something else. In fact, now that I look back, I find that

I did spend most of that time more profitably doing something else, namely scribbling humour for student magazines, learning to play the double bass and getting into the Oxford jazz scene...

But I don't entirely regret the French bit, even though Oxford University was very careful not to sully our minds with anything too relevant, so we never found ourselves speaking any French in the entire three years I was there (this is true) or studying any writer who was still alive or had died within living memory.

So when I left Oxford, you might suppose that I was fully armed with the weapons to tackle French culture, and so I was, except that I could speak medieval French better than modern, and had no idea

what had happened to French literature in the 20th century. This certainly gave me an incentive to continue educating myself and it may well be that the whole point of an Oxford degree is to give the holder the urge to finish the job which the dons of Oxford have barely started.

But it had also given me a wonderful education in trivial background knowledge of the type that is considered vitally necessary to pass exams, and useless for anything else. I'll give you an example.

While studying French theatre history in the late 19th century, a period which is even more barren of talent than the same era in Britain, I came across a writer called Henri Becque who is no longer performed but was thought



MILES KINGSTON

The whole point is to give the holder the urge to finish the job which the dons have barely started

significant because he made several innovations in staging. So I read his plays. (What a diligent

student I must have been.) And I remember one play of his called *La Parisienne* which did have one fine moment.

In the first scene, set in a Parisian home, the man is confronting the wife with a letter he has found.

"Someone is sending you love letters!" he cried. "You have been deceiving me! You have a secret lover!"

Just about to defend herself, she bears the noise of the front door opening downstairs, and puts her finger to her lips.

"Sssst!" she says. "Careful! It's my husband!"

Suddenly you realise that the man who is accusing the woman of infidelity is not the husband but the lover! Very clever. The rest of the

play was quite good, too, and I even thought of trying to translate it once. But I never got beyond the title. How do you translate *La Parisienne*? As *The Lady from Paris*? *The Parisian Lady*? *A Woman Of Paris*? *The Parisienne*? Well, there's not much point in translating a play or a book if you can't get the title right.

The same is true of *Ubu Roi*, which is why nobody ever calls it *King Ubu*. The same is true of *Madame Bovary*, which is never retitled *Mrs Bovary*. Nobody would ever think of translating Cocteau's *Les Enfants Terribles* as *The Terrible Children*.

I have even been having trouble translating something I found in my guru-books the other day. These are a cheap (£9.99) pair of boots, made

in Italy, which I bought in an emergency and which are so unweatherproof that the makers have left a note inside saying, in their approximate English: "These boots should be worn in case of normal weather conditions - that is, against minimal hazards only." Not in mud or puddles, in other words.

But in the French version of the notes there is an instruction which recurs in none of the other languages:

"Instructions d'entretien: pas d'entretien particulier." I think that is very funny. Roughly, it means: "Instructions for care. No particular care needed."

I only wish I could translate it better. But I think it's like *Le Grand Meaulnes* and *Ubu Roi*. It's better in the original.

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Let's keep all this talk of harmonising in perspective

SUCH IS the reaction to proposals for further harmonisation of taxes across the European Union that it is difficult to separate fair comment from hysteria. A group of Europhobic British newspapers seem preoccupied with the "threat" to Britons' hard-earned taxes from a cast of greedy foreigners. Inevitably, this gets in the way of a real and necessary debate.

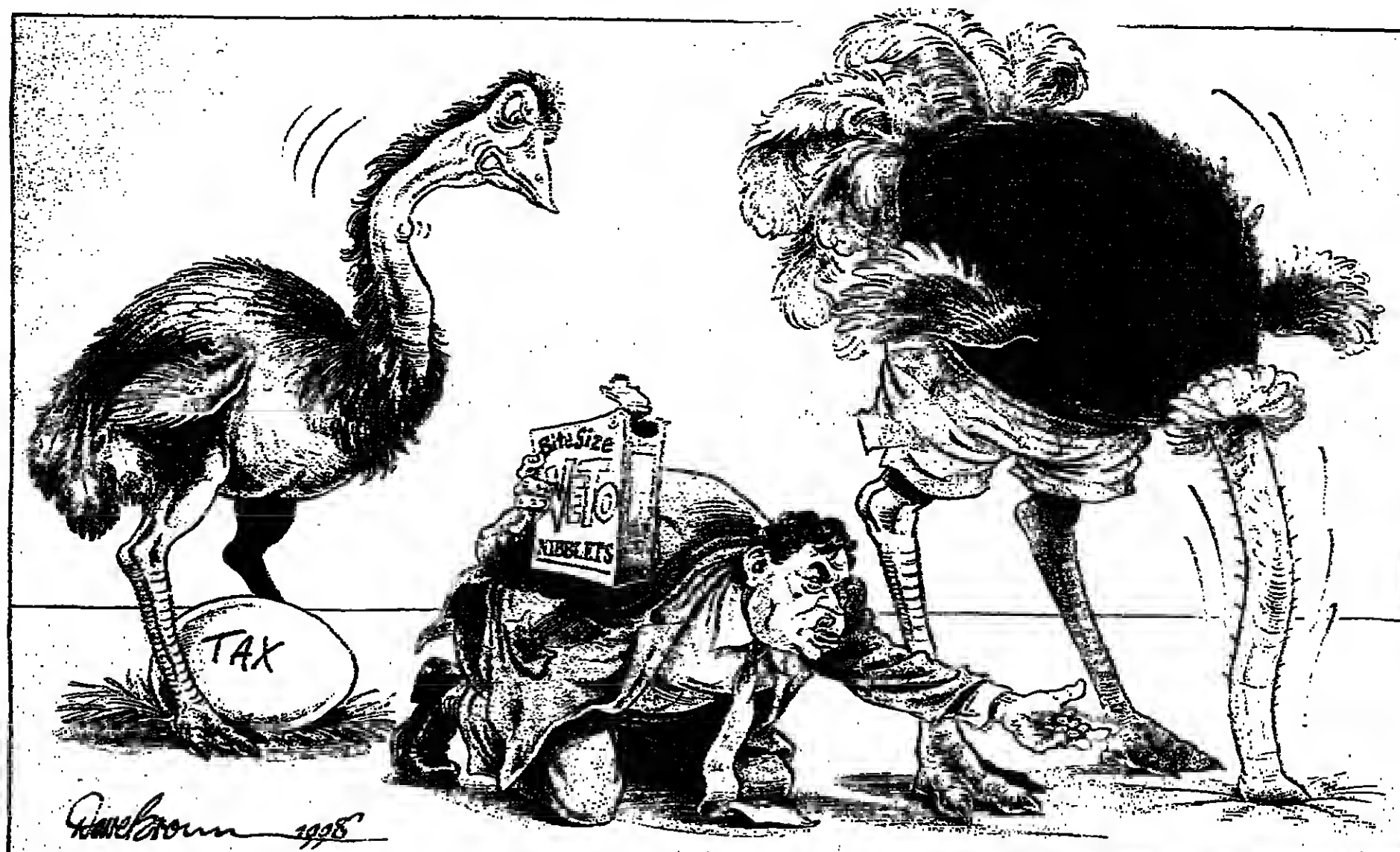
Of course, EU nations have long been harmonising economic policies. The social chapter and Europe-wide competition policies are examples. Large inward investments are handled by the European Commission; certain categories of VAT cannot be lowered below a EU "floor". A right-wing press desperate for an issue with which they can beat New Labour have latched on to an old story.

VAT exemptions for children's clothes and food, both popular issues that have been seized upon, are anomalous as rare examples of Britain's difference from the Continent. British tax rates are lower than those in other EU nations: the state takes 38 per cent of UK national incomes, compared to an EU average of 45 per cent. But what divergence does exist is clearly not under sustained threat: EU ministers are concerned with setting minimum rates of tax along the lines already established, rather than setting in stone absolute levels of tax.

The real driving force behind harmonisation is not a power-hungry European Commission, determined to take financial powers away from governments. It is the election of a new left-leaning German government that has forced the pace, worried that lower tax rates in other EU countries represent "unfair" competition. Commissioners, on the other hand, are concerned that all European tax rates are too high, and especially that EU members should manage a transition from direct to indirect taxes, a transition in which Britain has shown the way.

To some extent, further harmonisation is inevitable. Beggar-my-neighbour tax cuts designed to attract investment could threaten social security systems with bankruptcy. There is, though, no need for total uniformity. The US allows individual states a wide measure of discretion over taxation: this acts as a valuable break on irresponsible overspending on the part of state governments. If taxes go up too much, then the tax base shrinks as middle-class citizens vote with their feet, and move to lower-tax regions. States dare not waste money in that situation.

Many of the specific proposals for EU taxation should be resisted. A "withholding tax", taxing at source income moved across borders to avoid tax, would be a grave blow to London's lucrative Eurobond market. No British government should allow such an attack on our interests. But Britain still has a veto, and officials privately accept that some compromise will be reached demanding more dis-



closure, and exempting Eurobonds. No one contradicts the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, when he argues that the best institutions to mobilise in tackling tax fraud are more international, such as the OECD and G7.

Britain should not agree to one single European rate of tax. A single tax code, however orderly, may stifle European economic reform, which depends on lowering the costs of employment and manufacture. Given Britain's own regional policies, and the "enterprise zones" established in the Eighties, we recognise the impossibility of one effective rate of tax within our own borders, let alone Europe's.

But the best way to resist such proposals is to realise that the radical connotations they are supposed to carry are a chimera, summoned up by New Labour's enemies to frighten them into a Eurosceptic tone that sits ill with their positive European policy. Nations with efficient economies should not have higher taxes foisted on them to support welfare states elsewhere; but nor will that outcome be averted by hysteria.

The Tate's bizarre art of attraction

YES, THE Turner prize's entries include, and have included, everything from dung and bricks to preserved sheep. And yes, it has seemed more concerned with video performances and hits and pieces tied together than with art as the man in the street, or the visitor to the nation's galleries, would recognise it.

None the less, the fact is that the Turner Prize has added to the gale of the nation in one of the areas of culture where Britain is now paramount: contemporary visual arts. And this year it has shown the work of a first-class group of artists with a winner, in the 29-year-old Chris Ofili, worthy of that reputation. The point that the critics of Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate, have missed is that the occasion is not a judgement of great-

ness. From that point of view, to win the Turner does not equate with the grand international awards at the Venice Biennale. What the Turner Prize has succeeded in doing is to show where some of the action in modern art is taking place, and to display what at least a few artists are up to as they challenge past conventions and redefine, as every generation must do, the terms of their craft. More, Serota has managed to involve the public in these avant-garde actions. Their noses may be turned up, their eyes popped, but the numbers going to such exhibitions are impressive by any standards. And they are excited by it.

The Tate can be criticised for confining its choice to a small range of London artists. But then London is at the cutting edge, not just of Britain but the world at present, with a flowering of galleries and art schools more prestigious than New York's. Most of the work displayed will probably prove ephemeral. But that may be true of much of contemporary art. But a public gallery is doing its job entertaining and involving an audience. Good for the Tate.

Why do Blair and Hague fall silent when the talk turns to Europe?

A PROXY war is being fought out in Britain with the most potent of invisible weapons: disinformation, propaganda, and blood-curdling war-cries. The debate about Britain's place in or out of the single currency zone is becoming a screaming match between two camps, each deaf to the arguments of the other.

Only the main political figures remain silent. Mr Blair mutely avoids committing himself to a firm intention, beyond general goodwill towards economic and monetary union. From this Government's first collision with the subject, when Mr Brown had to make a Commons statement in response to contradictory leaks by his aides to *The Times* and *Financial Times*, the roles of media and politicians have been reversed. The newspapers define the pace and parameters of the debate while our elected representatives belatedly respond to their promptings.

Mr Brown promised yesterday to veto the same tax harmonisation he had agreed to embrace in principle two weeks ago when he helped draw up *The New European Way* - the most integrationist document in the EU/EEC's recent history. He did so in response to the "Her Majesty's unofficial Opposition on all questions European" - *The Sun* - which claimed that there were plans to increase the amount of VAT on children's clothes as part of the drive towards tax harmonisation.

In the manner of Linda Evangelista, the Chancellor does not get out of bed for the ten-past-eight slot these days unless *The Sun* demands that he

should. He would have no call to set the alarm early on account of the Conservative Party.

Where is the William Hague who won the leadership against Ken Clarke largely because he was a Eurosceptic and Mr Clarke was not? Mr Hague then risked a divisive party ballot on the matter and won it. His troops on the ground were ready for the next full-frontal assault on the euro. Since then, the trenches have been eerily quiet. The party which has staked its future on opposition to a single currency is making no impact on the debate whatsoever. *The Sun's* engaging editor, David Yelland, is turning into the best Eurosceptic leader the Tories never had.

True, Mr Hague sometimes has difficulty making himself heard above the din of people agreeing that he is irrelevant. But if he can't make himself heard on the propensity of EMU to produce a currency manipulated by shifting political interests, accelerate integration beyond the tempo at which most citizens on the continent feel happy, and launch Britain on a slide towards unaccountable policies and some murky long-term revenue-raising schemes, then he shouldn't be in this game at all.

The Sun's story raised awareness of tumult beneath the deceptively smooth surface of events. "Yough," cry the EMU-philes. "What base disinformation. Entering the single currency will not result in higher taxes and even if it does, not very much, and not for a long time." Of course, they cannot know this. Electorates are right to be distrustful of politicians -



ANNE MCELVOY
Mr Hague has difficulty making himself heard above the din of people agreeing he is irrelevant

their own and other peoples' - on tax. "We will use the veto to control any unwelcome consequences of the euro to which we, or *The Sun*, objects," continue the euro defenders. This would have sounded more reassuring had Chancellor Schröder not purposefully inquired last week "whether the use of national vetoes should be limited in EU decision making". Can Mr Brown tell us how he intends to resist unwelcome impositions from the EU once his veto has been vetoed?

In vain, the EMU-philes have implored Mr Blair to out himself as a passionate crusader for a single currency. But Mr Blair is neither an EMU-ophile nor an EMU-sceptic. He could, in different circumstances, be either. In present ones, he has chosen to go along with the project, but left himself a fire-escape by refusing to make a

complete and unconditional commitment to entry.

Now, however, his tactical position is far more difficult than Messrs Clarke, Howe and Hattersley acknowledged when they pleaded in Monday's *The Independent* for the Government to commit more clearly to British entry. How definite these politicians become when they are no longer in office, I remember asking Mr Clarke when he was Chancellor which day he would name for entering the single currency, given that he was so keen on the idea. "That's a minxy little question," he replied, which hardly amounted to enlightenment.

For Mr Blair to specify an intended entry date to a single currency would mean taking on the full brunt of debate about the euro's risks before it is launched, and when its terms are looking most vulnerable. The New European Way asserts a countervailing left-wing approach to economic management that is wholly at odds with his belief in the tight control of national finances and retreat from statist, high-spend solutions to the problems of globalisation.

The very nature of the single currency is shifting before his eyes and a true moderniser cannot much like its mutated form. A political project was given a veneer of economic solidity in order to convince the sceptical and rich countries of northern Europe to go along with a scheme whose outstanding benefits are to Germany politically, to France economically and to the countries of the south who crave the centralised discipline the euro imposes.

The changes in German politics and the pressure on an SPD-led government to tackle unemployment fast has revealed the reality. Oskar Lafontaine is not alone in desiring that the central bankers back off and allow politicians to dilute the strict criteria imposed on the euro by the Maastricht Treaty. Most of the SPD and related left-of-centre continental parties feel the same way.

As much as Mr Blair enjoys companionable chats with Social Democrat leaders in the EU, he has reason to be nervous about the impact of their new dominance of the institution. He would have far fewer qualms about selling to the British public a single currency guaranteed by hatchet-faced central bankers (whom one could rail about from time to time), than one open to the baleful influence of Herr Lafontaine, who believes that governments must spend money to cure joblessness, rather than tackle the structural causes of the malaise.

Mr Blair's carefully balanced policy of approaching EMU by stealth has been blown apart. By raising the subject of tax harmonisation, his European partners have done a valuable service to the sceptical tendency. They have revealed a truth, one kept fastidiously veiled down the years. Economic and monetary union always was a political project. It will demand ever greater integration of national expenditure and revenue between the participating countries to keep the show on the road in difficult times. If you don't like the sound of this, don't vote for it - whenever they get round to asking you.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Condoms should be as easily available as Coca Cola."
Clare Short,
International Development Secretary

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Judges, like the criminal classes, have their lighter moments."
Oscar Wilde,
playwright and poet



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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
International opinion on the occasion
of World Aids Day

FOR SOUTH Africa, which now has the fastest rate of Aids infection in sub-Saharan Africa, this threatens to become a national disaster. Our resources are limited and there have been differences over strategy. But on one strategy we should be united: our most potent weapon is to spread awareness of how it is transmitted. That weapon should be wielded fearlessly and relentlessly by all in the years ahead. Cape Argus, South Africa

WORLD AIDS Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to eradicating HIV. Today, that final victory seems more distant and elusive than ever, but someday, if we persevere, we can achieve it. Remembrance, gratitude, and commitment can provide the energy and determination this effort will require, until the day when the bells ring and the prayers rise to celebrate the end of the epidemic. The Charlotte Observer, US

IN AFRICA alone, over 21 million people live with HIV. It orphans children, cripples public health systems and disrupts economies. The UN's top Aids official has suggested

that foreign debt repayments be steered to prevention if the poorest countries are to safeguard their populations. Aids is a plague by any measure. San Francisco Chronicle, US

A NEW HIV infection occurs every six seconds. In Asia, millions are infected. The disease has begun to undermine the economies in Africa and Asia. Besides loss of life, business is being crippled and natural resources overwhelmed. With little of the financial and human capital of developed nations, the Third World faces an insuperable task. So it's fitting that today the world unites in a quest for survival. Miami Herald, US

THE WORLD is reluctant to provide the means to stamp out the epidemic. Means exist but people refuse point-blank to put them to effect: wealthy America is certainly not short on syringes but Congress has banned the distribution of them among junkies. One day isn't too much to stop and reflect and think of those who suffer and who will suffer. That day is today. Tribune de Genève, Switzerland

PANDORA

NEXT YEAR'S Eurovision Song Contest has produced a spin off, Channel 5's *A Thong for Europe*. This competition between European male strippers is well under way, with qualifying heats due to start soon. Strippers from France and Spain, two of the eight nations competing, have complained that there are not enough strip joints in their countries and have had to come over to Britain to practise. According to a Channel 5 source, Britain now has the most strip joints in Europe and can easily offer the practice needed to become King Thong, the ultimate winner of the competition. Nevertheless the BBC, which will screen the Eurovision Song Contest, held in Israel next May, won't have to worry about a clash. "We won't be showing it at the same time as the Eurovision, because our target audiences are similar and they probably won't sacrifice their usual viewing," a Channel 5 spokesman admitted.

IT SEEMS that Tony Blair has found himself on the "wrong" side of the New Age obsession which reigns at Downing Street. An organisation called Yellow Dragon has written to MPs to warn them that "unless Tony Blair contacts Yellow Dragon's Master Wong immediately for help, he will lose a leadership challenge from Gordon Brown. Master Wong's Yellow Dragon are fervent believers in feng shui, the I Ching and astrology, favourites of the New Age crowd. So no doubt the crystal-wearing Cherie Blair and her husband will be taking note. As an emissary of Wong's warns, "Remember Tony Blair's massive landslide victory was due to a prolonged spiritual blessing from Master Wong."

LIFE WOULD be a lot duller without Keith Richards. Dubbed as the man who "has tried everything so you don't have to", in the January issue of *Q* magazine, Richards gets down to earth responding to readers' questions. One reader asks Richards whether Mick Jagger takes himself too seriously. Of his fellow Rolling Stone and lad of the moment, Richards says: "I think he takes everything too seriously. My aim is to introduce more levity into his life. I think Mick may have a hard time having nothing to do. Every minute has to be filled." That

explains a lot. THE ACTRESS Susan Sarandon (pictured) has been behaving rather oddly lately. Sarandon has been spotted walking up to complete strangers in New York City and eating their lunch, enjoying a lap dance in a strip club and asking a bookshop assistant to look up all the books that she is in. Fans of the *Thelma and Louise* star should not despair; the darts were part of Sarandon's guest editor slot in January's *Marie Claire* and were set up to raise money for charity. Pandora salutes Susan as a good sport and wonders whether the celebrity dare idea could catch on over here. Why not dare Arsène Wenger to try his hand at stand-up comedy, get Jeremy Beadle to end his career? The possibilities are boundless.

SPEAKING OF dares, Pandora has still not heard from the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, on how much he has enjoyed the recent publication of *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks*. As Pandora vowed yesterday, examples of the MP's wit will be aired until such time as we hear from him. Today's gem comes from a 1994 Commons debate on the cash-for-questions scandal: "Since I was elected I have tabled 6,919 questions. If I had received £1,000 for each of these I'd have netted a cool £7m, which would have meant that I could have faxed this speech from Mustique."

BRIAN BEHAN, brother of the better known, late, Irish playwright Brendan, is having a spot of bother with his play, *The Tale of Two Todgers*. Todgers tells the story of a man born with a dual appendage, who claims benefit for it, as well as for his cat and his dog. In the latest version of the play, to be shown at the Hammer-smith Irish Centre on 16 December, Swiney, a misery DSS official, kills the cat and the dog so the hero, Padser Sausage, can't claim for them. "I've got animal rights protesters threatening to picket the play," Behan complained to Pandora. "I wouldn't mind, but the cat and dog are stuffed. It's not as if I killed them."

The dangerous bigotry of the BBC



NIGEL HAWTHORNE
I was not allowed to infer that Mandelson's situation is not a million miles from Oscar Wilde's

Whether one likes award ceremonies or not is beyond the point. They are part of our lives now, and in the theatre world at least, they help draw attention to one of the country's greatest and most profitable industries.

THE BBC lady seemed to be in touch with HQ, as I shuddered in the cold, hauled out of the *Evening Standard* awards luncheon to do an interview on the pavement.

"No," I heard her say, "Stephen Fry can't be located. But we do have a substitute."

Ah. That's what I was. Not there to discuss the awards, as I'd thought. This was back to Oscar Wilde, which is where the trouble had started.

Earlier that day I'd been at the unveiling of a memorial to that self-destructive man, over 100 years after Oscar Wilde's trial opened at the Old Bailey - on 3 April 1895. It had been a quiet ceremony.

Maggi Hambling, the sculptor, had concocted a slightly grotesque creation. The head of Wilde, hairy, effete and thick-lipped, seemed to be waving a bejewelled hand from the depths of his marble sarcophagus. Perhaps Wilde on a plinth would have been more appropriate, as that was how he saw himself.

Then I had to dash. Down the Strand to the Savoy Hotel, where I was attending the *Evening Standard* awards luncheon.

event whispered apologetically in my ear that he would be very grateful if I were to agree to doing an interview.

"What? Now?"

"Now."

With respect, I abandoned my conversation and followed the spokesman into the foyer - and then out on to the street.

There was a camera. It was on the far pavement. A BBC lady asked me to step over to be wired for sound. A technician puzzlingly enquired whether I had hearing problems before inserting a minute plastic object in my left ear. Through the noise of the traffic, I could just about hear what seemed to be the news. I guessed I was on when that was finished.

The Peter Mandelson story featured in considerable detail - the bars he is reputed to have visited in Brazil and so on - and then on to other matters. It was cold out there, and still the newscaster chattered on, and still I waited patiently to be interviewed. At the very moment that I was struggling to adjust to my role as a Stephen Fry stand-in, who should arrive, but Stephen himself.

"Oh my God," he said. "You do it." I said, "No, you," he replied. "Please - no!" I said, trying to unfasten the microphone from my belt. Then the technician decided. "We're almost on the air. It's too late. You're on, Mr Hawthorne." And I was. Through the roar of London's traffic a voice seemed to be asking: "What relevance do you think a statue of Oscar Wilde has today?"

"Well," I answered. "I've just been listening to the news story about Peter Mandelson, and I think..."

"I'm sorry," the interviewer cut in. "We don't want you to talk about personalities."

The programme, you should know, was going out live. I was flabbergasted. "It's not to do with personalities then what is it about?" But I was cut off.

Right. Fine. The BBC, in its all-powerful position, seems to think it can operate as it pleases. Double standards to the fore. We're perfectly happy to discuss the details of Mr Mandelson's alleged sexual activities in the news because that is fact, but we do not want to hear any discussions about it, or opinions.

The fact remains that what Peter Mandelson does is not my or anybody else's business. I do not know the man. I have never met him.

But what, more importantly, I was not allowed by the BBC to infer, was that Mandelson's situation is not a million miles from Oscar Wilde's. Have we learnt nothing in the past 100 years?

To hold someone up to ridicule because of his or her sexual proclivity is cheap, hypocritical and retrogressive. Would we dare do the same were they Jewish, black or a member of any other minority group? And to censor somebody because he has dared to draw attention to the parallel between the past and present and hint at the inherent dangers seems to me to be dangerously close to bigotry.

I made my way back to the award ceremony, seething with rage about injustice, bigotry and hypocrisy. I don't suppose many people noticed. But, dear old Auntie, if you set yourself up to have such high moral standards, as you have done all these years, then you ought to be bloody well ashamed of yourself.

The strange fantasy world of my paranoid party leaders



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Every time my profile starts to flag, someone in Millbank finds a way to put me back in the news

I SOMETIMES think that somebody in the Millbank Tendency must love me. Every time that my profile starts to flag, somebody in Millbank finds a way to put me back in the news.

Last Sunday's papers reported that the Labour Party machine had drawn up a dossier analysing all my speeches and articles since the election, provoking several follow-up stories and a *Today* interview about control freakery. Even before this story had died down, the papers were filled with the news that the Government had decided to delay passing control of the London Underground to the mayor when he is elected. The fact that this could completely disempower the transport policies of any mayor seems not to have occurred to the intellectual giants making these decisions.

I have no objection to the Millbank Tendency circulating an analysis of my activities. It will reveal that I have voted with the Government for about 98 per cent of the time. According to the media leaks, the dossier records full details of my criticisms of Gordon Brown's economic strategy. In that case, this dossier will reveal that, even before the general election, I predicted that the world economy would be likely to head towards a recession at the turn of the century and that the British economy was likely to go through a mild recession in the mid-term of this Government. I suspect that by the time we get around to deciding Labour's candidate for mayor, my forecast of the economy's growth rate is going to look a lot more realistic than Gordon's over-optimistic predictions in his pre-budget statement.

But what is not acceptable is that the money donated by Labour Party members and by the trade unions should be wasted on circulating such a dossier about my

prescient economic analysis at a time when Labour has just been pushed into third place in a Scottish Euro by-election.

Whereas all this can just be dismissed as a little bit of internal Labour Party factionalism, the proposals to withhold control of the Tube from the newly elected mayor would be a real attack on the interests of Londoners, who are desperate to see somebody tackle the capital's transport chaos.

Control of the Tube will be withheld from the mayor apparently because the Government fears that the London elections would raise the question of whether privatisation of the Tube was in the best interests of an integrated transport policy. A senior source was quoted in the *Evening Standard* on Monday as saying: "The key thing is not to let this issue become a political football as we move closer to the mayoral elections." The paradox, of course, is that, in removing it from the debate, the future of the Underground stays in limbo, when Londoners will be expecting the

mayor and assembly to make a rapid start on improving transport in London.

The Government's plans for the Tube are already struggling, with many of the firms who have expressed an interest beginning to get cold feet. The time to change this policy is during the debates in Parliament. Once it has become law, whoever is mayor will be stuck trying to do what he or she can to make the system work for Londoners (including those who work on it). That reality would apply to me just as much as any other mayoral candidate, contrary to the implication of some of the press stories this week. It would be politically suicidal for any mayor to throw the entire Tube system into chaos just to embarrass John Prescott. I just wish that, just for once, someone from Millbank would pick up the phone and discuss these issues with me.

As if this was not bad enough, the Sunday papers reported that Millbank has commissioned a detailed dossier on my five-year "reign of terror" at the GLC. God knows what this is going to cost, but they could save their money. On the question of transport they would discover that by cutting London Transport fares by 35 per cent we got so many more people using public transport that we made a £48 million surplus in 1983, which allowed us to cut the domestic and commercial rates the following year. Overall, even with the reduced fares, the total income from fares went up by 11 per cent and the 70 per cent extra passenger miles meant a 5 per cent reduction in car usage in London with consequent reduced pollution and accidents.

While everybody now agrees we were right on public transport, other issues were more controversial. The Millbank Tendency has devel-



John Prescott on the Tube Geoff Caddick/National Pictures

oped the interesting line that it was "GLC excesses" over lesbian and gay rights that prompted the Thatcher government to bring in clause 28. I make no apology for tackling this issue. The GLC funded a study which showed that amongst young lesbians and gays, half had experienced problems at school, many had been beaten up because of their sexuality, some had been evicted from their homes and some had tried to commit suicide. To have ignored this problem would have been political cowardice.

It is because organisations such as the GLC campaigned with lesbians and gay men to eradicate this prejudice that we have now been able to make so many advances, including the support enjoyed by "out" gay and lesbian politicians.

I hope Millbank's dossier will deal honestly with these issues. I sincerely hope they mention the report in which we asked Mrs Thatcher's government to allow us to build an extension of the Jubilee Line out to Docklands. It's a pity she blocked it - the Government would not now

face the worry of the Jubilee Line extension being finished in time for the opening of the Millennium Dome.

The fact that anyone in the Labour Party thinks I would bring the Tube system to a halt in order to make a political point merely reflects the strange fantasy world these people inhabit. Londoners would turn on anybody who played fast and loose with their quality of life. During the final year of the GLC it would have been possible for the Labour administration to follow a scorched earth policy in which we maximised the damage caused by the transition to the new arrangements for running London's services but I don't recall anybody ever making such a suggestion. Instead everyone in the Labour group, from myself on down, sweated blood to make certain we preserved the services we provided to Londoners and the jobs of GLC staff concerned.

If only the Millbank Tendency would work as hard attacking the Tories - instead of wasting their time and Labour Party members' money studying my collected works.

Bringing the church into disrepute



TONY BENN
The evidence given by the Labour MP during the trial of Peter Tatchell at Canterbury Magistrates' Court

MY NAME is Tony Benn and I am a member of Parliament, first elected in 1950, and have been a Privy Councillor since 1964. I have known Peter Tatchell since 1961 and have the greatest respect for him as a man of principle, who is consistent in his convictions, non-violent in his methods and wholly committed to the rights of homosexuals to equal treatment before the law as a matter of human rights.

This view is not universally shared but it is, at last, becoming accepted by the House of Commons in the drafting of legislation. It is not necessary for anyone to agree with Mr Tatchell's opinions on this matter, or even to approve of his methods of campaigning, for his own complete integrity to be recognised. His intervention on Easter Sunday, when he entered the pulpit and briefly interrupted the sermon to be preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury because he opposes the views of the Archbishop on this issue, may have disturbed some members of the congregation, may be criticised by others who do not

share his view, but cannot be held to have constituted "vicious, violent or indecent behaviour" under the law.

Nor can it be denied that what he did was solely motivated by his long-held personal convictions and was entirely non-violent in character. I hope that in considering this case the court will take account of the long history of dissent that has taken place in this country, and world-wide, over the centuries, and which is now accepted as having, on many occasions, played a significant and beneficial role in shaping public opinion, the law of the land and the thinking of the Church itself.

When Jesus himself entered the Temple in Jerusalem and turned out the "changers" money and overthrew their tables" (St John, Chapter 2, Verses 14-15), this non-violent direct action could well have been an offence under the then law, but is now accepted by the Church as a historic and symbolic act.

It has long been accepted that conscience is above the law, and that men and women who follow their own deeply

held beliefs and peacefully defy unjust laws are right to do so, and though they may be punished at the time for what they have done, their views are often upheld by the judgement of history.

For example, Christians who defied the Heresy Act of 1401, which made it an offence - punishable by being hanged, drawn and quartered - for the laity to read the Bible, are now seen to have been right in

what they did, and the law was later repealed. Similarly, the Suffragettes regularly broke the law to argue for the right of women to vote, were imprisoned for their protest and are now seen to have been martyrs in a just cause. Women now have the vote.

Conscientious objectors against war - such as the women at Greenham Common, who were imprisoned in 1982 for action "likely to lead to a breach of the peace", and many others - have done what they believed to be right, have paid the price for it and are now accepted as having been unjustly treated.

Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, both of whom were imprisoned for committing offences that no longer exist, are now honoured for their principled stand.

More recently, three Anglican Bishops, a Roman Catholic Bishop and five others including the Baptist Superintendent and the Moderator of the United Reformed Church, attacked the Poll Tax in 1990 and issued a statement which included the phrase: "Everyone has the right to protest peacefully

about a perceived injustice" (April 10 1990). The evolution of democracy and the slow advance of human rights can, very often, be attributed to those very people and to the courage they showed.

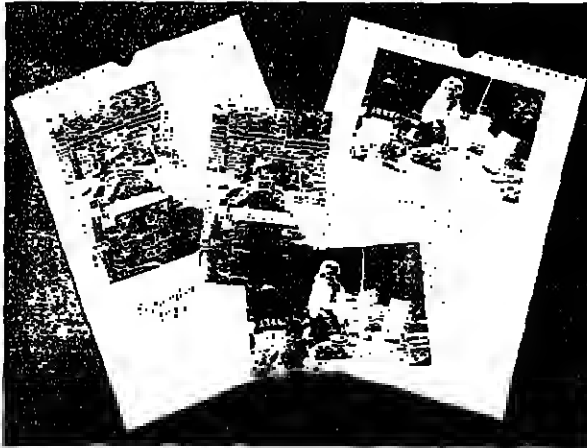
Given this background, it would, I respectfully submit, be quite wrong for Peter Tatchell to be convicted under laws that were drawn up in past centuries for quite different reasons, namely the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act of 1880, formerly embodied in the Brawling Act of 1551.

In addition, I must add that were Mr Tatchell to be convicted and punished, it could bring both the courts and the Church itself into disrepute and would serve to remind the public that only the churches enjoy protection of this kind under the law, a protection that is not even enjoyed by Parliament or other public gatherings.

For these reasons, I hope this court will find itself able to dismiss the charges brought against Mr Tatchell. I would be glad to answer any questions the court might like.

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BC The cold reality of separation

RIGHT OF REPLY

NORMAN BAKER



The Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes replies to David Aaronovitch's call for a closer Lib-Lab relationship

SURE, THERE is much common ground between Lib Dems and Labour. But there are also many differences. We are friends, but not family. Friends can get along fine, but different blood flows through these two parties' veins.

There is a fundamental philosophical difference. Tony Blair may have shed his socialist clothes, but he retains a top-down, centralist approach, anathema to Liberal Democrats. He wants to use the state more than we do to regulate people's lives, whether it's Jack Straw's curfew, or beef on the bone bans.

Sometimes there seems to be a willingness to relinquish power – the creation of a Scottish Parliament, a Welsh Assembly, and an authority for London. But Tony Blair wants to control from afar these "devolved" bodies. He wants to be loved for being open and liberal, but wants to retain power by other means.

Then there is the Freedom of Information Bill. It was drafted, it was ready to go, but instead it was its architect, David Clark, who went. The Bill has now been given to the minister allegedly most sceptical about it, Jack Straw.

Our second fundamental disagreement is on the environment. There is no recognition that environmental policy should permeate all Government policy. The Treasury continues to regard green issues with haughty disdain or as easy ways to raise revenue. The Queen's Speech only mentioned the environment once. There is no legislation on it. Even the Bill on the strategic rail authority has been shunted away.

These are fundamental differences for us. It is right to oppose a Queen's Speech which does not address these issues from a Liberal perspective. That will not stop us co-operating where we can. But as friends, not family.



TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

Small nation states with clear ethnic majorities might be the least bad solution for the Balkans

THE FRESH red blood on the fresh white snow in the village of Prilep looks unreal, like a new exhibit at the Tate. But it is entirely real. This is the blood of two dead Serb policemen, shot at dawn, almost certainly by the soldiers of a tough local commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, violating the ceasefire. The blood lies, symbolically, just beneath a ruined mosque in the middle of an Albanian village which those Serb forces have systematically destroyed. Now the women of one of the few Albanian families to remain here are telling us how the Serb police beat them up after the killing. Welcome to Kosovo, Europe, at the end of the 20th century.

The province is in fact divided. Blue-uniformed Serb police, heavily armed, in blue armoured vehicles and a few sinister unmarked white ones, patrol the roads and the main towns. Soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), in army surplus gear of varying hues of orange and khaki, control much of the remaining countryside, driving in battered Ladas down muddy lanes – their own little Ho Chi Minh trails. You meet them as soon as you turn off into the hills. In places, the two forces are just 50 yards apart. This is not peace. It is frozen war.

The war is frozen, quite literally, by the heavy snows that came down a fortnight ago, signalling the start of the winter intermission now traditional in this decade's Balkan wars. It is also frozen metaphorically by the so-called "international community". Between the Serb boys in blue and the Albanian boys in orange, there cruise burly Americans, light-lipped Britons (usually "with a service background") and earnest Scandinavians, driving white or bright orange armoured vehicles – including, I am told, some Land Rovers previously deployed in Northern Ireland.

Now formally under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), their brief is to "verify" compliance with the ceasefire and other security provisions negotiated by the Americans with the Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic. But unless a political deal is agreed in the next three months, all the planned 2,000 unarmed OSCE



Prilep, in Kosovo, where 60 Albanians were killed by Serbian troops: separating the ethnic groups could eventually make them better neighbours

"verifiers" will not stop the bloodshed starting again when the snows have melted.

That political deal is being negotiated in countless rounds of exhausting shuttle diplomacy by America's ambassador to Macedonia, Christopher Hill. His latest draft plan would restore the far-reaching autonomy of which Kosovo was robbed by Milosevic in 1989. It would devolve much power to local communes, thus allowing purely Albanian areas to have Albanian authorities and police, while mixed areas would supposedly have mixed ones. The Hill plan foresees direct international supervision, especially for the reconstruction of the police and new elections. In effect, the OSCE mission under the American William Walker would run those parts of the show. And the whole arrangement should be reviewed in three years' time.

Of course, this would be the world's largest piece of fudge, excepting only the Dayton agreement on Bosnia. At the moment, it's still unacceptable to both sides. The Albanians, 90 per cent of the population of Kosovo, want guarantees that in three years' time a door will be open to eventual independence. Not just the Milosevic regime, but also many moderate Serbs I talked to in Belgrade, want a province which they regard as a historic cradle of their nation, to remain at least notionally part of Serbia. It is far from certain that Hill can make the poles meet. Not even by deploying the political Cruise missile called Richard Holbrooke. Not even with a renewed threat of Nato air strikes.

If he does not succeed, there will again be low-level war. If he does, while General Winter holds the combatants apart, then Kosovo will rapidly become a quasi-protectorate, like Bosnia. For in these troubled provinces of the Balkans, a strange new version of the Austro-Hungarian empire is being re-created, with Americans taking the part of the dominant Austrians and its Western Europeans as the second-string Hungarians.

Except that this is not direct colonial rule as it was under the Habsburgs, and the quasi-protectorate covers a reality of far-reaching ethnic partition. For the Bosnian model is a wonder of the world in international relations: half-protectorate, half-partition. And with no obvious exit, save the faint hope that one day Milosevic will be removed by his own people (with a little help from their Western friends) and a more democratic government in Belgrade will countenance more lasting solutions.

But what would those be? The truth is that we in the West are now on the horns of an insoluble dilemma. It is a hard, sad conclusion of the last decade that probably the least bad, most durable framework in which the peoples of the former Yugoslavia might start their slow journey to a civilised, liberal, democratic Europe is as a group of small nation states with clear ethnic majorities. This statement can easily be misconstrued. I am not arguing that separating out into nation states was the inevitable consequence of "ancient tribal hatreds". Buried hatreds there surely were, but to revive, exacerbate and exploit them was the culpable responsibility of bad leaders: Milosevic, above all, but also Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. But now, after all that has happened, a period of separation would be the least bad solution. Good fences might eventually make good neighbours.

Nor is this peculiar to the Balkans. We in Western Europe have long since separated out into nation states, with a few exceptions, and even those exceptions – such as Belgium, or Scotland in Britain – are now proving difficult to sustain. (Yes, I know, there'll always be

Spirit of Plato alive in Silicon Valley

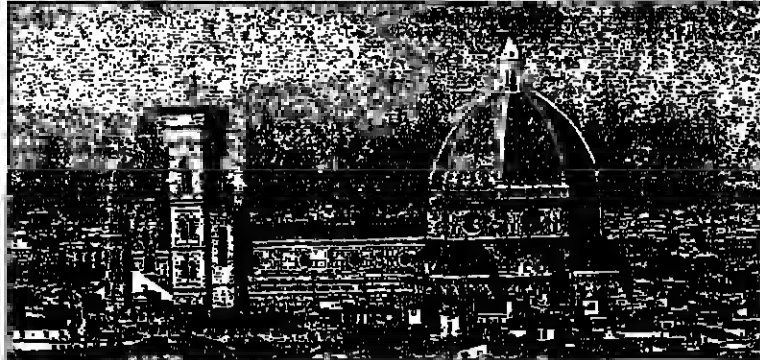
IMAGINE FLORENCE in the Renaissance. Brunelleschi's dome dominates the skyline; Michelangelo's David stands majestically in the Palazzo Vecchio; commercial banking thrives as feudalism declines; the ancient city-state is reinvented for the modern era. By any standard, quattrocento Florence was a city of awesome achievement. The question is how. What forces converged to make Florence, in this golden age, one of the great cities in world history?

Peter Hall's superb account of over a dozen such great cities tells a story of bewilderingly impressive accomplishments. But *Cities in Civilisation* does not seek simply to rehearse the individual histories of cities; rather, Hall attempts to provide an eclectic



WEDNESDAY BOOK

CITIES IN CIVILISATION: CULTURE, INNOVATION AND URBAN ORDER
BY PETER HALL, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON. £30



Brunelleschi's dome, a symbol of the creativity of Florence

theory to understand the complexity of how great cities come to be. As his thousand-plus pages suggest, this is no mean feat, so it is to his immense credit that he almost convinces us.

This study is divided into four sections, comprised of case studies of cities ranging from ancient Athens to California's Silicon Valley. Most of the book is taken up with exploring the extraordinary innovations in culture and technology that mark great cities, and suggesting ways in which their histories overlap. With such an approach, Vienna's musical revolution and Manchester's industrial revolution, both in the late 18th century, share something – a willingness to embrace the new, signalling shifts in the dominant paradigms of knowledge and practice. That creative spark and the impulse toward innovation, combined with geographical luck and economic prosperity, are ultimately what leads some cities to a glorious golden age.

Hall is most impressive in the first section, which deals with artistic creativity. His chapters move effortlessly between an overview of "the world's first entertainment business", the Elizabethan stage, and the importance of cinema in Weimar Berlin. He is as comfortable discussing Pericles in Athens as Picasso in Paris. Such rich erudition, concisely and elegantly expressed, assures our attention.

Hall's many insights help us unravel the complexity of cities. As a guide that synthesises a tremendous range of writing about the city (in political philosophy, economic theory, urban planning, architecture and history), this book has no equal.

The importance of transitional moments in the history of great cities stands out. "Creative cities... are places of great social and intellectual turbulence, not comfortable places at all," Hall writes. He is not an urban utopian and admits that such cities are difficult places. But for him, the disjunctions that occur, the exclusionary practices that often separate individ-

uals rather than unite them, is what allow a city to become great.

As he suggests of the dominance of ancient Athens – a city that relied on exploited labour, an aristocratic elite and a resident alien population – the sort of creativity that produced Plato's philosophy, Aeschylus's drama or Phidias's Parthenon frieze was not a stable condition.

On the contrary, "it was the tension between the old order, the order of the gods and of the world they ordained, and the new, the order when people were masters of their own destiny, that brought the creativity".

Despite the impulse towards instability and tension in the great cities of the West, there is also an impulse towards order. Dirty streets must be cleaned; street crime must be policed; traffic must move. In the final section, Hall maps out creativity in infrastructures to show different solutions to the problem of urban order. Ancient Rome's great public works, Victorian London's railways, Los Angeles' stacked highways, Stockholm's Social Democratic vision of satellite cities, each represents a negotiation between public and private interests in an attempt to order the city, prevent decline, and make city life as comfortable and equal as possible.

We'd like to bring some horror stories to your attention.

This Sunday read our special report in
The Independent on Sunday
Human Rights 50 years on

W THE INDEPENDENT
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Supporting The Medical Foundation
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WEDNESDAY POEM

JEWELS IN MY HAND
BY SASHA MOORSOM

I hold dead friends like jewels in my hand
Watching their brilliance gleam against my palm
Turquoise and emerald, jade, a golden band.

All ravages of time they can withstand
Like talismans their grace keeps me from harm
I hold dead friends like jewels in my hand.

I see them standing in some borderland
Their heads half-turned, waiting to take my arm
Turquoise and emerald, jade, a golden band.

I'm not afraid they will misunderstand
My turning to them like a magic charm
I hold dead friends like jewels in my hand
Turquoise and emerald, jade, a golden band.

This poem comes from 'Your Head In Mine', a joint selection of poems by the late Sasha Moorsom and her husband, Michael Young (Carcanet, £8.95)

Brigadier Michael Calvert

MICHAEL CALVERT, who survived both the Chindit expeditions into Burma, was one of the outstanding leaders of irregular troops during the Second World War, though born into the old officer class and himself a regular army officer.

He was the youngest son of a senior member of the Indian Civil Service, who rose to be acting governor of the Punjab; his mother was Irish. He was himself born in the Raj, near Delhi, went to school at Bradfield, and followed his brothers to "The Shop", the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Though he cared little for mathematics he passed out seventh and was commissioned a second lieutenant Royal Engineers in 1933. He then spent a year at Cambridge reading Mechanical Sciences at St John's and securing a swimming Blue. He was also a boxer, later the Army's mid-weight champion.

His first Army posting was to Hong Kong where he raised a force of coolies. He was then moved on to Shanghai in time to witness its conquest by the Japanese in 1937: an early lesson in the horrors of war. He reported in detail on the infantry landing craft, with hinged front panels, which he saw the Japanese using; his report lay forgotten in a pigeon-hole in the War Office.

The outbreak of war saw him adjutant of a London RE battalion, work so dull that he volunteered for the Fifth Battalion, the Scots Guards (though well under the proper height for a guardsman). This battalion consisted of men preparing to fight beside the Finns against the Soviet Union during the winter war of 1939 to 1940. They spent weeks at Chamonix learning to ski, and were then disbanded as the Finns had given in.

Calvert missed the fighting in France next summer but was an early member of the Commando training school at Lochailort in the Highlands, which he left to assist Peter Fleming in preparing the stay-behind parties in Kent who were to try to upset the communications and petrol supplies of the German army that, thank goodness, never invaded.

He was then sent out to Australia to help set up a school similar to Lochailort there. From one of his fellow instructors, Freddie Spencer-Chapman (later author of that marvellous book, *The Jungle is Neutral*, 1949), he learned a lot about jungle warfare; and he helped to train Australian special forces. He was moved on to set up a hush warfare school at Maymyo in Burma, east of Mandalay - in fact a school to train guerrillas to fight in China.

There he was surprised by the Japanese invasion in the winter of 1941/42. Off his own bat he dressed his staff and pupils in Australian hush hats and mounted a raid by river craft behind the Japanese lines, intended to lead them to think that the Australian army was already present in Burma in force. He got no thanks in the short run - indeed he was reprimanded for damaging the property of the Burmah Oil Company without permission. He dis-

covered in the long run that he had indeed done a little to hold up the Japanese advance. His casualties were light and he had managed some important demolitions. Moreover he next met Orde Wingate, that formidable pillar of unconventional warfare, who had read a paper Calvert had scribbled in 1940, about the way raiding parties could be kept supplied by air, far behind any existing fighting line, and was looking forward to implementing that then quite novel idea in the field. Calvert was one of the few regular officers whom Wingate was prepared to treat as an equal. That their ranks at the time were major and brigadier made no difference at all; the two of them got on splendidly.

Calvert paused to bathe in a river, and met a Japanese officer doing the same. He won a quarter of an hour's wrestling match, drowned his opponent, and had his patrol kill the Japanese patrol whom they surprised in the next bend of the river

Before he could rejoin Wingate,

and was at once summoned by Wingate to help train his first Chindit expedition. "God often gives men peculiar instruments with which to pursue His will," Wingate remarked. "David was armed only with a sling."

In August 1942 Calvert joined 77th Brigade which Wingate commanded; in it Calvert commanded a column of some 400 men when it went into Burma six months later. This first attempt at Long Range Penetration - its official name - had little strategic impact but was a colossal propaganda success; home morale in Great Britain was much boosted by the idea that our men were attacking the Japanese in the jungle and the name of Chindit became famous. Casualties were heavy, at about 30 per cent of the

force. Calvert, though emaciated after a march of over a thousand miles through jungle, survived.

He was indeed promoted brigadier - thus winning a bet he had made with a schoolfriend when he was 12 - and took 77th Brigade into Burma again by air on 5 March 1944. He established a stronghold and landing ground codenamed Broadway well behind the Japanese lines, and another called White City a little farther south; and held both of them against sustained Japanese attacks. This operation was of far more use than the previous one - it dislocated the Japanese assault on Imphal, that threatened India; but the fire went out of it when Wingate was killed in an air crash, and Calvert found himself under the orders of the American General Stilwell - passionately anti-British - and forced to fight a conventional war for which his men were neither equipped nor trained.

Thereafter his career went downhill. He had a spell helping to administer Trieste while its ownership was in dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia. In 1950 he was posted to command a new SAS unit called the Malayan Scouts in a colony already troubled by Communist subversion. Many men posted to him from elsewhere in the Army were discards from their former units and with this material even he could do nothing useful. He fell ill; returned to England; and was posted - in his substantive rank, still major - to a corner of the control commission in Germany.

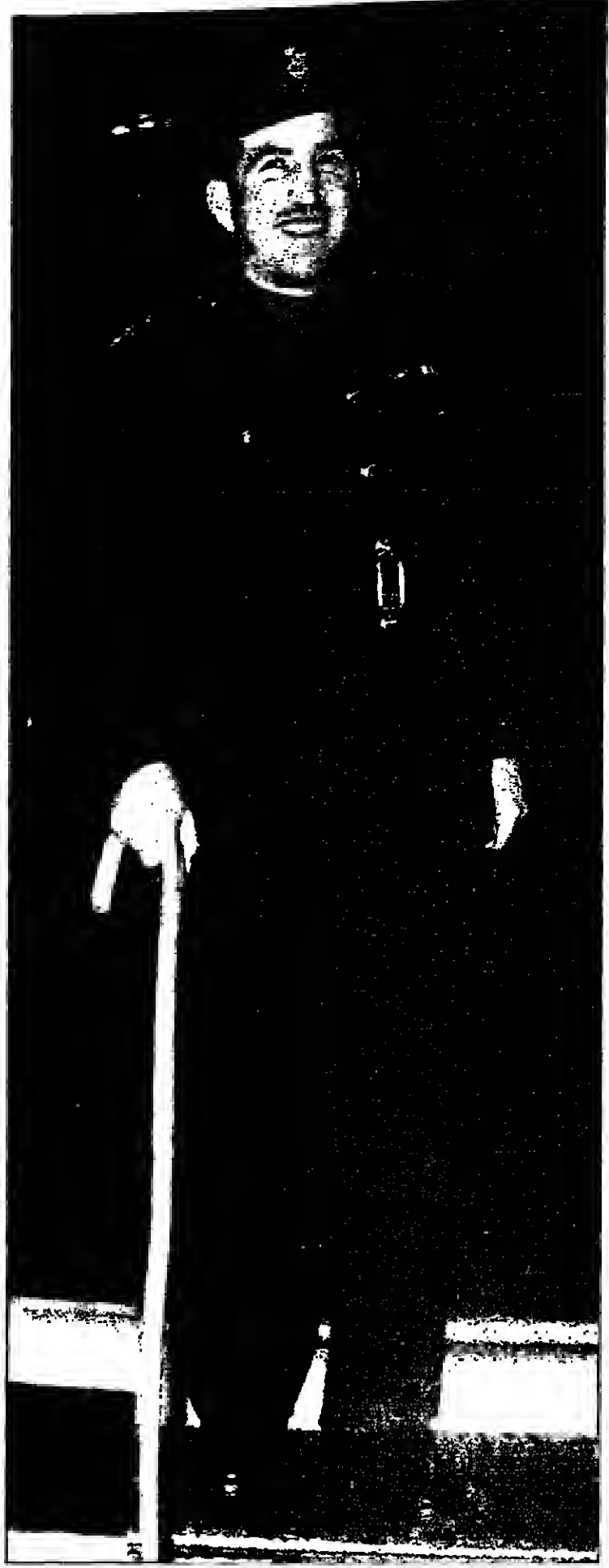
He did not get on with his fellow officers and took to drinking by himself in a bar in Soltau (though he spoke no German). Some young men called on him and accused him of trying to seduce them. He was court-martialled for conduct unbecoming to an officer and a gentleman - his biographer David Rooney strongly suspects that he was framed - and dismissed from the service.

He tried hushness in Australia; it did not succeed. He then took to drink in so big a way that he was reduced to methylated spirits in the slums of Glasgow. His fellow drinkers abused him - what was an educated man like him doing among such down-and-outs as themselves? This shocked him back on to the water wagon; and for a few years he worked as a temporary lecturer in Military Studies at Manchester University. A book he then projected on the theory of guerrilla warfare was never finished; and he retired to the Charterhouse. Alas what the temperance movement used to call the "Demon Drink" reassured its hold.

Though he never rose above brigadier anyone who served under him knew that Michael Calvert was a tremendous leader of men; quite careless of his own danger and taking care not to put his troops into worse trouble than he could help.

M. R. D. FOOT

James Michael Calvert, soldier; born Rohial, India 6 March 1913; DSO 1943, and Bar 1944; died London 26 November 1998.



P. N. Haksar

P. N. HAKSAR was an intellectual powerhouse and one of India's most successful strategists who astutely established the political omnipotence of a weak prime minister, Indira Gandhi, through populist measures in the Sixties and early Seventies. He also served as ambassador to several countries and was one of India's few remaining Cold Warriors and die-hard socialists, instrumental in negotiating a timely military pact with the Soviet Union before the third war with neighbouring Pakistan in 1971, to counter any interference by its ally, the United States.

As principal secretary to Indira Gandhi and India's most powerful civil servant, Haksar played a major role in negotiating the 1972 Shimla Accord with Pakistan after the war that led to the breakaway East Pakistan becoming Bangladesh. His closeness to Gandhi made Haksar perhaps the only man privy to the secret negotiations concluded between her and the Pakistani prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto over the disputed northern province of Kashmir. It remains one of the world's most volatile flashpoints, where armed Muslim separatists have been waging a civil war for an Islamic homeland since 1989 that has claimed nearly 20,000 lives.

The secret deal that led to the Shimla Accord after Pakistan was defeated and with over 90,000

prisoners of war in Indian hands remains a mystery. When all negotiations between the two antagonists had broken down Gandhi and Bhutto decided to make one last attempt to break the impasse by meeting without aides. It is widely believed that only Haksar knew what transpired between the two that eventually led to the Shimla Accord which also agreed to resolve the Kashmir dispute bilaterally. But he kept his counsel, revealing nothing despite severe provocation in recent years.

Haksar was best known for firmly establishing a tottering Indira Gandhi in office in the late 1960s after her Congress party won a bare majority in parliament and senior party leaders, known as the Syndicate considered her a *gudli* or doll. On advice from Haksar, whom she recalled from Vienna where he was ambassador, Gandhi acted swiftly, nationalising banks, abolishing royalty and introducing land reform policies, all measures geared to please the majority poor voters.

Then, after India had decisively defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, Haksar persuaded Gandhi to call general elections a year early. Gandhi won a two-thirds parliamentary majority, decimating all her former party colleagues who had split the Congress after unsuccessfully conspiring to topple her.

Haksar's decline, however, began soon afterwards. Absolute power



Haksar (centre) was Principal Secretary to Indira Gandhi 1967-73

Hulton Getty

bad clouded Gandhi's judgement and, believing she had mastered the art of political manipulation, she began to distance herself from Haksar. Gandhi's courtiers had also found a new mentor - her younger son Sanjay, a university dropout who

believed in Fascism and mob rule as a means of political expression.

Jealous of Haksar's influence over his mother, Sanjay launched a successful campaign to oust the acerbic consigliere that included plastering the walls of his house with

slogans and publicly vilifying him. In 1973 Haksar was unceremoniously "dethroned" and appointed first vice-chairman of the planning commission and later chancellor of the newly founded Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

Two years later Gandhi, facing indictment for electoral malpractice, declared an internal emergency at Sanjay's behest in which civil liberties were suspended, the press censored and people forcibly sterilised. After 19 months of authoritarian rule Gandhi was forced to call an election in which her Congress party was wiped out, forcing her into political oblivion. The belief at that time was that had Haksar been around events would not have taken such a drastic turn for Gandhi or India.

Born in Gujarawala (now in Pakistan) into an upper-class Kashmiri Brahmin family in 1913, Haksar studied Sanskrit at home and took an MSc from Allahabad university in northern Uttar Pradesh state. He then went on to the London School of Economics before being called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn in the early Forties. In London, Haksar was greatly influenced by socialism, a philosophy he adhered to in perpetuity.

On returning home he briefly practised law at Allahabad before joining the diplomatic service in 1947. He served as ambassador to Nigeria and Austria, then was appointed principal secretary by a politically beleaguered Indira Gandhi in 1967 and remained with her for six years. He also served as deputy high commissioner in London in the mid-1960s.

During his tenure with Gandhi

Haksar enjoyed untrammelled power. It was said of him that he was "fortunate to have combined a capacity to think with the opportunity to act". Unlike his successors he used it constructively to try and resolve India's myriad problems in a practical, realistic and principled manner. He had nothing but contempt for the new breed of politicians and said as much publicly.

By the tonnes of flowers placed on Mahatma Gandhi's *samadi* (mausoleum) every year on his birth anniversary, Indian politicians only bury the Mahatma's principals deeper and deeper.

Despite his sarcasm, biting wit and hugely abrasive and arrogant manner P. N. Haksar was a kind and generous man who, even though nearly blind for many years, was amazingly well informed about local and international events and was constantly invited to speak at public functions. He also wrote several books including *Premonitions* (1979), *One More Life* (1990) and *Reflections on our Times* (1992).

KULDIP SINGH

Parmeshwar Narnin Haksar, diplomat and political advisor; born Gujarawala, India 4 September 1913; Principal Secretary to Indira Gandhi 1967-73; Chief Negotiator India-Pakistan-Bangladesh 1972-73; married Urmila Supra (deceased); two daughters; died New Delhi 25 November 1998.

Earl Kim

THE MUSIC of the Korean-American composer Earl Kim deserves to be better known than it is - the musical establishment often seems non-plussed by styles that fall between the two stools of the ultra-modern and the comfortably conservative, neither extremist enough for one nor conventional enough for the other.

But the real cause of Kim's neglect may be something much more banal: he published his music himself, and without the machinery of a commercial publisher behind it, it has so far failed to make much of an impact outside specialist circles. One has only to look at the careers of some sample British composers, equals in stature, to see what a difference a publisher can make. Sir Michael

Tippett, prosperous under the wing of the commercially alert Schottis, is known the world over; Robert Simpson and Edmund Rubbra, stabled at the inefficient Lengnickes, remained localised enthusiasts until latterly, when the CD gave them a hand up.

Kim's studies were undertaken initially at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1939-40, where his first important teacher was none other than Arnold Schoenberg. After a hiatus for war service (he was a captain in the US Army Air Force Intelligence), he moved on to UC Berkeley, where his mentors were Roger Sessions and Ernest Bloch. He took his BA in 1950, and the first of his MAs in 1952 - the second came from Harvard in 1967.

The move to the east coast had been occasioned in 1952 by his appointment as a lecturer, and later associate professor, at Princeton, New Jersey, where he was to stay until 1967. That year he was appointed to a chair at Harvard, taking up the prestigious James Edward Dison professorship in 1971, which he held until his retirement in 1990. He enjoyed the position of composer in residence at several important musical centres: Princeton, Marlboro, Dartmouth, Tanglewood and Aspen.

Kim was passionate about politics as well as about music. He was co-founder and, for three years, was 1981, president of "Musicians Against Nuclear Arms" (something else he had in common with Robert

Simpson). In the year of his retirement he turned down an invitation from the National Endowment of the Arts (the US equivalent of the Arts Council), in protest against "all forms of censorship of the arts", as he explained in a letter to *The New York Times*.

But, if it ever gets a hearing, it is the music that Kim will be remembered by. In spite of his determined political stances, he was not a man for the grand gesture, and his works tend to be small-scale, compact, unemphatic, precisely judged, of an almost Weberian elegance. The music is thinly scored, letting each note in the texture tell, often by allowing silence to set the stage for him. His style was essentially lyrical, marry-

ing modernist terseness to tonal harmony and a fondness of melody that his more purist avant-garde colleagues didn't dare espouse.

He was drawn particularly to the voice, setting a range of poets, from Apollinaire, Baudelaire and Chekhov through Rilke and Rimbaud to Verlaine. But above all he leaned for a generous series of works for voice (usually soprano) and chamber ensemble, often using unconventional combinations of instruments. David Tsang described Kim's music as being "concerned with stripping away non-essentials in a single-minded pursuit of the essentials so that no barrier may ob-

struct a direct reflection of innermost feelings" - small wonder he felt at home with Beckett.

In this, too, there was some reflection of his Oriental heritage: for a 10-year period, apparently unconsciously, his music adopted a basic underlying tempo that is characteristic of Korean court music. And in one part of his music-theatre piece *Exercises en Route* he attempted to translate the image of the Japanese rock garden into sound.

One of Kim's few moments in the limelight came in 1979, when Itzhak Perlman commissioned a violin concerto, premiered it in Avery Fisher Hall in New York and recorded it for EMI. Perlman had chosen his composer well, though this was only

Kim's second work for full orchestra: between the angular outer sections of the concerto lies a rapid, lyrical slow movement of heart-warming, understated beauty which demonstrates that Kim really understood how to write for the violin. Small wonder that the Twelve Caprices for solo violin that he subsequently wrote for Perlman have gone on to enter the violin literature.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Earl Kim, composer and teacher; born Dinuba, California 6 January 1920; married 1947 Nora Phillips; born 1956 Miriam Kagan, 1977 Martha Potter (two daughters); died Cambridge, Massachusetts 19 November 1998.

Jeremy Maule

JEREMY MAULE was a prodigy. His learning simply beggared belief, not only in the literature and history of early modern Britain in which he specialised. He would grince at the thought of being known as "The Man Who Knew Everything" (which he was); he was easier in the role of a man passionately curious about everything and everybody. He was self-forgetful to a fault in his readiness to serve other people's plans, whether they were close friends, colleagues, students or virtual strangers. He had an exceptional sense of direction, for others if not always for himself.

He spent his earliest years in Germany where his father was working for the Foreign Office. A fine treble voice won him a choral award at St Paul's Choir School - he was proud to have sung at Churchill's funeral in 1965 - before a scholarship took him to King's School, Canterbury. Early English music and old churches remained a delight to him, preferably in combination. He went up to Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a First in History, and seemed set for a high-flying career in the Civil Service.

He spent the next seven years working mainly in London as a Clerk to the House of Lords. The experience left him with a sharp nose for the workings of large and powerful institutions. To the two ancient universities where he would later work he brought diplomatic skills of high and low cunning that served him well on committees and in corridors.

It was a brave and financially near-calamitous decision to return, via an MA in Medieval Studies at Birkbeck, to the academic world that was his natural habitat. He went back to Oxford in 1981 to embark on a DPhil in English on the poetry of praise in the 17th century. His failure to complete it became in due course the stuff of legend. Meanwhile his developing reputation as a remarkable teacher of undergraduates won him short-term appointments at Christ Church and Trinity College, Oxford.

When asked for their views in the mid-1980s on aspiring young scholars in English, Oxford dons would usually conclude with a rueful, mysterious smile - "and then there's Jeremy Maule".

Friends from this era say that his move to a teaching fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1986 did him a world of good. The feeling was mutual. He hurled himself into teaching with a zeal that could leave diffident undergraduates pale with dismay and the urgent desire to switch to an easier subject like law. His reading lists seemed endless.

He was an inspiring teacher of undergraduates, but he was at his very best with the numerous graduate students over whose work he took an infinity of pains. He rapidly established himself in college and faculty alike, as an indispensable member of the intellectual community, not only through formal lectures, classes and papers, wonderfully learned and thoughtful as these invariably were, but also by virtue of continuous conversation, suggestion, advice and hints, "higher gossiping" as he himself called it.

His own work suffered, as he came to acknowledge. Not that he was unproductive: recent publications included *The Oxford Book of Classical Verse in Translation* (1995), to which his expertise in Latin made an invaluable contribution, and a fine essay on "Donne and the past". He was a tireless par-

He hurled himself into teaching with a zeal that could leave diffident undergraduates pale with dismay. His reading lists seemed endless



ticipant in conferences, organising and speaking and responding all over Britain, the Continent and North America. But for reasons no one ever quite fathomed, including Maule himself, he shied from the ordeal of publication.

I learned from my own collaboration with him that the only fool-proof method of getting his work into the public domain was brute force when his back was turned. He loved nothing better than to trawl through archives, across Europe, Britain and North America. He was a master of the postcard announcing with triumphant illegibility the discovery of an unknown manuscript or the correction of a misattribution.

None the less, his findings were substantial and he was gaining in confidence about seeing them into print. In particular there were forthcoming contributions to the new Yale edition of Andrew Marvell's prose works, an essay on "Craque and the lower orders", editions of previously unknown verse and

prose by Thomas Traherne, collections of critical essays on Elizabeth Cary, Robert Boyle, Donne and Traherne.

Especially characteristic were his plans to edit the afflicted conversations of one "Mr Briggs" with unseen powers after his failed suicide attempt in 1574. He had started up his own small press for the publication of Renaissance texts in manuscript, and was, as ever, in cahoots with collaborators actual and potential all over the world. It heartened him to know that there would be innumerable friends, colleagues and students eager to see so many of his good intentions through, as they will.

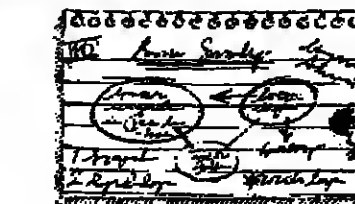
Books and manuscripts were his great passion, but his friends will remember him for many other things, not least for his endless capacity for making new friendships and nurturing old ones. They will remember his appetite, his sorrel soup, his jam, his plants, his postcards, his love of lists. He had a strong domestic impulse reflected in his

affection for old-fashioned recipes, gardens and dogs. They will remember his kindness, his moodiness, his scorn, his patience, his owliness, the bulk of his physical presence with its powers of intimidation and tact, his dignity, his sense of justice, his high-heartedness.

Jeremy Maule had a disconcerting abrupt way of ending conversations, on the phone or in the street, as if he had suddenly remembered he was late for someone else. In later years he softened this, on the remonstrance of friends, by inventing an idiosyncratic and rapidly swallowed exclamation - "Prosper!". None of us was prepared for the speed of his last parting.

ADRIAN POOLE

Jeremy Frank Maule, English scholar and teacher: born Wuppertal, Germany 11 August 1952; Fellow and Lecturer in English, Trinity College, Cambridge 1986-98; died Cambridge 23 November 1998.



CULINARY NOTES

ANNE CHOTZINOFF GROSSMAN
AND LISA GROSSMAN THOMAS

Napoleonic pies - and rats in onion sauce

LET'S FACE it, food just doesn't taste the way it used to. Time was, we milked our cows by hand, directly into the syllabus bowl. We raised free-standing pastry "coffins" to encase perishable pie fillings. We "sweetened" rotten meat by burying it for three months - then cooked it, smothered in sugar and spices, for several hours before serving it forth. (And if the result was unrecognisable, so much the better.)

Of course, all this was 200 years ago, when Patrick O'Brian's Captain Jack Aubrey was sailing the seas and keeping Napoleon's navy at bay, all the while eating Lobscouse, Burgoo, Skilly-gales, Drowned Baby, Floating Archipelago in the Shape of the Galapagos, and Millers Dressed in Onion Sauce.

Recreating the tastes of early 18th-century food is not unlike today's popular sport of trying to recreate the musical sounds of the same era.

No matter how faithfully you reproduce the conditions, the effect will never really be the same, because the environment, our bodies and our senses have changed. It's not just the sound itself that is inevitably different: it's different partly because the ears that hear it now are not necessarily equivalent to the ears that heard it then.

It's exactly the same with food: you can use the same ingredients, and the same com-

binations of flavourings - but the ingredients themselves are not what they were, nor the reasons for using them. Our palates, like our ears, are attuned to the age in which we live. It simply isn't possible to go back.

The challenge, then, is to rediscover and recreate, in a form that our modern palates can accept, the foods (both real and fictitious) of the Napoleonic era - and of the Aubrey/Maturin novels in particular. The obstacles are legion.

Chief among them, perhaps, is the source material or, in some cases, the lack thereof. It isn't difficult to find period recipes for most dishes, but deciphering them can be another matter. Until the mid-18th century or so, cookery books were woefully inexact when it came to such minor matters as quantities, proportions and cooking times.

Quite often the best approach in such cases is the "Goldilocks method" of estimating: start with too much; then overcompensate ("Now to the other extreme you're tending"); then compromise. The result will almost inevitably be just right.

But what to do when there is no source material at all? "Millers" in onion sauce are a case in point: the culinary literature of the 18th century yields no recipes for ship's rats in any sauce whatsoever. Floating Archipelago in

the Shape of the Galapagos is another such, as are any number of elaborate and fantastical sea-pies and puddings.

Culinary deconstruction is the key. Like ordinary academic deconstruction, this discipline studies the text for clues that the writer almost certainly never intended to put there, and like ordinary deconstruction, if necessary it can be conveniently twisted to produce a desired result.

It is sometimes the only tool available for deciphering these references. It's merely a matter of delving a layer or so beneath the surface: not for unconscious motives or broad philosophical themes, but for such clues as the nationality of a whaler's pastrycook the season when a particular pie was served; a breakfast scene that providentially reveals the presence of bacon fat.

To the enlightened - or determined - researcher, the text of the novels supplies all deficiencies. And the bacon fat, by the way, is a key ingredient of Millers in Onion Sauce, which proved truly delicious, especially with baby peas and tiny new red potatoes.

Anne Chotzinoff Grossman and Lisa Grossman Thomas are the authors of "Lobscouse & Spotted Dog: a gastronomic companion to the Aubrey/Maturin novels" (Norton, £21.95).

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CARSLAW: On 27 November, to Nicola (née Hayman) and Michael, a daughter Olivia, a sister for Emilia and Anna.

POPOV: On 30 November, to Tanya (née Brish) and Julian, a son, Alexander Stephen, a brother for George.

DEATHS

DAVIS: Barbara, widow of Ryland Davis, aged 80. Died peacefully at her home on Friday 27 November. The funeral will be at Clay Church, at 2.30pm on Tuesday 1 December. No flowers please. Any donations to Clay Church, please send all to South Knoll Church Lane, Claydon, Norfolk NR25 7UD.

DUNNING: Genevieve (Geany) McLeamyman peacefully on 30 November. Beloved wife of Duncan for 48 years and sister of Bill. Dearest loved mother of Doreen, Kathy and Elizabeth and grandmother of Sam, Sarah, Jack, Kate and Robert. A Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Geany's life will be held at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London W1 on Wednesday 16 December at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to All Souls Church (at the above address).

HUTCHESON: Stella Christine, died at her home in Colchester on 30 November, aged 83 years. A fine wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend and lawyer. For funeral details please contact Rumball Funeral Directors, 01206 760044. No flowers, but if desired, donations to Macmillan Nurses.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BECKINGHAM: Charles F. A memorial meeting to celebrate the life of Professor Charles Fraser Beekingham will be held at the Travelers' Club, 106 Pall Mall, London SW1, on Monday 14 December 1998, at 5.30pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Maurice Bathurst QC, international judge, 85; Sir Frederic Bennett, former MP, 80; Mr Timothy Boswell MP, 56; The Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 67; Professor Sir Alan Cook, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 76; Sir Frank Cooper, former senior civil servant, 76; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 89; Sir Noel Davies, chairman, Nuclear Electric, 65; Mr Mike England, football manager, 56; Mr Andrew George MP, 40; Mr David Green, director of Voluntary Service Overseas, 50; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications and ITN, 51; General Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, 74; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 65; Miss Julie Harris, actress, 73; Miss Patricia Hewitt MP, 59; Sir George Labouchere, former ambassador to Spain, 98; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive and deputy chairman, British Library, 53; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 69; Dame Winifred Prentice, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 88; Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 25; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Agostino Agazzari, composer, 1578; Henry Gally Knight, architectural illustrator, 1786; Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, caricaturist and politician, 1844; Georges Pierre Seurat, painter, 1859; Manuel Ponce, composer, 1882; George Richards Minot, physician, 1885; Sir John (Giovanni Battista) Barbirolli, conductor, 1889; Peter Carl Goldmark, inventor of the long-playing record, 1906; Maria Anna Cecilia Sofia Callas (Kalogeropoulou), operatic soprano, 1923.

Deaths: Hernando Cortés, conqueror of Mexico, 1547; Margaret of Angoulême, Queen of Henry II of Navarre, 1549; Gerardus Mercator (Gerhard Kaufmann), cartographer, 1594; Philip II, Duke of Orleans, Regent of France, 1723; Donatien-Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade, writer and philosopher, 1814; Amelia Opie (Alderson), novelist, 1853; John Brown, abolitionist, executed 1859; Edmond-Eugène Alexis Rostand, playwright, 1918; Sir Evelyn Henry Wood, field marshal, 1919; E.M. Delafield (Edmée Elizabeth Monica de la Pasture), novelist, 1943; Philip Arthur Larkin, poet, 1985; Robert Cummings (Charles Clarence Robert Orville Main Cummings), actor, 1990.

On this day: the new St Paul's Cathedral was opened, 1697; Napoleon was crowned Emperor in Paris by Pope Pius VII, 1804; Birkbeck College, London, was founded, 1823; the Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London, closed, 1886; King Camp Gillette patented the first safety razor, 1901; Senator Joseph McCarthy was condemned by the US Senate, 1954; the first London performance of the musical show *Hello, Dolly!* was presented, 1965; the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms combined to form the United Arab Emirates, 1971; in Bangladesh, a cyclone killed 1,200 people, while 6,000 were missing, 1988.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bibiana or Viviana, St Chromatius of Aquileia, St Nommus and St Silvanus of Constantinople.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Nicholas Penny, "Pictures from Christ Church (I): Tintoretto, *The Martyrdom of Saint Lawrence*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert

Museum: Diana Perry Aldrich, "Furnishing the Renaissance Interior", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Oliver Collins, "A Painter on Painting: portraits of women", 1pm. British Museum: Louise Schofield, "Jewellery of the Greek Bronze Age", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Italian Paintings in the Wallace Collection", 1pm. Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Professor Peter Mortimore and Sebastian Conran, "Handing on the Baton: working to learn", 6pm.

TYBURN CONVENT

The Right Rev Dom Francis Rossiter, Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, unveiled a Westminster City Council green plaque yesterday at Tyburn Convent, London W2, to commemorate the 105 martyrs who died on Tyburn Tree (gallows) between 1535 and 1681. Mother Xavier McDonaghe, the Mother General at Tyburn Convent, London, welcomed the guests to the ceremony. The Rev Francis Edwards, of the Jesuit Church, London W1, gave a reading.

NEWSPAPER SOCIETY

Mr Charles Brims, President of the Newspaper Society, Chief Executive of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, hosted a breakfast yesterday in honour of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irving of Lairg QC, at Bloomsbury House, London WC1. Among those present were:

Mr Guy Black; Mr Robin Burgess; Mr Nick Carter; Mr Alec Davidson; Mr James Evans; Mr Lynne Gardiner; Mr Philip Grant; Mr Nicholas Hewitt MP; Mr Robert J. Hunt; Mr Fred Johnston; Mr Ian Lockie; Mr David Newell; Mr Chris Oakley; Mr Keith Parker; Mr Allan Percival; Mr Sandra Russell; Mr John Robertson; Mr Jenny Rowe; Mr Bob Satchwell; Mr Peter Strong.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visit the Royal Exhibition Show, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the London Guildhall University, visits the new National Library of Women, London E1, and the Integrated Learning Resource Centre, London E1; and, as Honorary Member of the Shikar Club, attends a club dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2. The Queen Mother dines with the Benchers at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London EC4; The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, attends their Advisory Board Meeting at Church House, London SW1; as President, Royal Yachting Association, attends a meeting of the Council at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London SW1; and, as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, attends a dinner at N.M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd, London EC2. Princess Margaret attends a Gala Evening, in aid of the Yehudi Menuhin School and the New Stables Theatre Appeal, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London EC2. Princess Alexandra, Chancellor, Lancaster University, presides at ceremonies for the conferment of Higher and Honorary Degrees, and Postgraduate Diplomas at the university.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Incomplete list complied with order

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

2 DECEMBER 1998

Realkredit Danmark A/S and another v York Montague Ltd and another

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Tuckey) 26 November 1998

AN ACTION should not have been struck out on the basis of failure to comply with an "unless" order requiring service of a list of relevant documents where the list had been served by the due date, but it was alleged that the list was incomplete.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the plaintiffs against an order striking out their claim against the defendants for failure to comply with an "unless" order.

The plaintiff lenders had brought consolidated actions against the first defendants for negligent valuations. The proceedings were commenced on 8 November 1995. On 24 July an order was made that lists of documents be served by the parties within 28 days of the service of further and better particulars.

Further and better particulars were served on 13 October 1996, but neither party served their list of documents in accordance with the order. The first defendants served their list on 28 January 1998, and on 18 February issued a summons for an "unless" order.

On 25 February by consent it was ordered that: Unless the plaintiffs serve a list of documents setting out in proper form all relevant documents that are or have been in their possession custody or power by 4pm on 4 March 1998 [the action] against the first defendants be dismissed.

The plaintiffs served their list within the time specified, but the first defendants applied, *inter alia*, for an order that the actions be dismissed by reason of the plaintiffs' failure to comply with the "unless" order. The judge concluded that the

plaintiffs' discovery was "still woefully inadequate", that the list served by them contained "obvious and substantial" lacunae, and that there was no reason why, in the exercise of his discretion, the sanction set out in the "unless" order should not be applied.

The plaintiffs appealed, contending, *inter alia*, that the judge had erred in law in rejecting their submission that, on its proper construction, the "unless" order had been complied with when a list of documents, which was not either a colourable evasion or a sham, was served by the due date; and that he should have held that allegations of incompleteness in the list, which might have founded an application for specific discovery, could not found an application to strike out for non-compliance with the "unless" order; and further that he had effectively reversed the burden of proof by requiring the plaintiffs to prove that they had complied with the "unless" order by providing a complete list of documents.

Nicholas Elliott QC (Taylor Joryn-

son Garrett) for the plaintiffs; Barbara Dohmann QC and Stuart Catchpole (Rouse & Maw) for the first defendants.

Mr Justice Tuckey said that the first defendants had not sought an order for specific discovery, but had instead invited the judge to embark on a wide-ranging critique of the list served by the plaintiffs and to conclude that it did not comply with the "unless" order.

The judge should not have accepted that invitation. The "unless" order had required service of a list. The list had been served and it had not been suggested to the judge that that had been done otherwise than in good faith.

On the appeal the first defendants said that the list served by the plaintiffs was not a proper list, seeking to equate it with one served otherwise than in good faith. Applying the language of *Reiss v Woolf* [1952] 2 All ER 3, however, the list served by the plaintiffs could fairly be described as a list, even if a further application for specific discovery requiring further documents could be made.

The judge had, therefore, adopted the wrong approach in dismissing the plaintiffs' claim. Had he approached the matter correctly, he would have decided that the plaintiffs had complied with the "unless" order. Instead, he had embarked on a protracted exercise to show that they had not complied with the requirement for discovery.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER
HAWTREE
tochis, n.

Variously spelt, from the Hebrew for "beneath", it has been used this century for buttocks, as in *The Premier Experiment* (1976) by

R.H. Rimmer. He also glistened the memoirs of Mistress Jacqueline, *Whips and Kisses*. This suggests the tenor of Mr Rimmer's work, unreviewed by the TLS, but one should not judge hastily. At least one expression therein - "your *tochis* is smiling sideways at me" - would not be out of place in Updike.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Noel Edmonds, why have you stopped wearing jumpers? And where is Mr Blobby?)

John Dempsey

Noel Edmonds, 49, was born in Ilford, Essex. The son of a headmaster and an art teacher, he was 20 when he landed his first job in broadcasting at Radio Luxembourg before moving to the BBC as a radio producer. His many television and radio credits include *Radio One's Breakfast Show*, the children's programme *Multi-Coloured Swap Shop* and Noel's *House Party*, which is broadcast on Saturday nights at 7pm on BBC1. He lives in the West Country with his wife Helen and their four daughters.

Where do you get those jumpers? Isobel Stephen, Fulham, London. And when did you last see me on television, Isobel? The jumpers went a long time ago. As did the bright Versace shirts. (My jumpers are now being used as roofing material for the Millennium Dome.)

I thought you were brilliant on Radio 1 but your TV show is embarrassing. Are my tastes changing, or has your target audience changed? Anonymous

I hate to contradict you, but you are completely wrong. I was also embarrassing on Radio 1 and I shall continue to be embarrassing for as long as I can breathe.

Where is Mr Blobby? Sarah Malone, south London. Who cares?

Who is your greatest idol? Mr Fletcher, East Sussex. Without a shadow of a doubt or a moment's hesitation, I sink to my knees in euphoric reverence and declare undying allegiance to the greatest human being of all time - Jeremy Clarkson (I worship the ground that he stubs his fags out on).

What do you think is your greatest achievement in life, and how did you achieve it? Mark Richards, Swansea. Rendering my superhero, Jeremy

Clarkson, speechless by telling him that I intended driving in the Le Mans 24-hour race.

You were at Brentwood School with Griff Rhys-Jones and the author Douglas Adams. What was it about our staid, traditional school that produced creative nutters? (I'm an old Brentwoodian.) Dave Skinner, e-mail

I do remember that Hardy Amies and Jack Straw both originated from Brentwood School, so I am not sure you have identified a trend. If

drug. How did you feel when you found out it was a hoax? Do you ever speak to him now? Sylvia Deal, Norbury

The tabloid newspapers delighted in ridiculing me for the fact that I objected to the hoax. Keen as ever to prove that "the joker can't take a joke", they completely missed the point. Drug abuse among young people in Britain is not only rampant, it's also playing a major role in the destabilisation of society.

I made the warning film in all sincerity, and still object to the fact that

Certainly. (Send me a picture of yours and I will send you one of mine.)

Do you think that women find facial hair attractive? Peter Brown, Croydon. On what? If you mean blokes, I guess some do and some don't. Fortunately for me, some very good-looking women have/do/might soon.

Did you grow a beard to try to look older?

Katie Hampton, Leeds. No - I grew a beard to cover a rather unsightly scar on the left-hand side of my chin. It is all that remains of a particularly wild night in a brothel in downtown Beirut. I was only 13. It was my very first time. (It was also the last time that I worked as a pizza delivery boy - I fell off the moped 16 times, hence the scar.)

What's your favourite sound in the charts now?

Jan Webb, Devon. Now come on, you are surely taking the piss. Let's not forget that I was one of the most popular and successful disc jockeys of all time - you don't think I know anything about music, do you?

Should schools expel kids caught with drugs?

Mr Pointer, Brighton. Yep. They should then be given professional counselling on the issues at stake and also be given the opportunity to return to their former school on a "probationary period". On a second offence the full weight of the law should be brought to their attention.

Do you think Tony Blair is doing a good job?

Miriam Michaels, Crouch End, London. Don't be daft. He's the Prime Minister.

If you had to go on *Swap Shop*, what would you most like to swap?

Julie Hamilton, Horsham. Mr Blobby for Caprice - I probably



wouldn't understand any more of the conversation, but who cares?

Do you rate Chris Evans? Why?

Rachel Gill, St Albans. At the outset I rated him very highly indeed and genuinely felt that his talent was good for certain areas of the industry that were in danger of stagnation. However, I have now come to my senses.

What's the most humiliating thing that's happened to you on TV?

Louisa Hollingsworth, Kettering. How long have you got? Undoubt-

edly the worst moment was being forced to sing and dance with the Spice Girls on *House Party*.

Why have you stopped wearing jumpers so frequently, and what are your recommendations for this season's winter warmers?

Derek Baker, Portsmouth. Blimey, this is where we came in - but I am flattered by your request for a seasonal tip and would recommend wool plucked from the genitals of the Andorran goat, spun with a mixture of unwrapped Brillo pads and dental floss to provide an

unparalleled barrier to the very harshest arctic winds.

Have you ever felt a stunt has gone too far? If so, when?

Jules Browning, Birmingham. We once got a d a major sporting personality who was so appallingly unpleasant that we stopped the filming and sent him home in a taxi without telling him what had really been going on. I have always vowed that I would never reveal the subject's identity but fifty quid in used fivers in a brown envelope could break my resolve.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Kent County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") and the county of Kent (hereinafter referred to as "the County") for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

(1) To provide that a person shall not carry on the business of a dealer in second-hand goods in the county unless he is registered by the Council or exempted from registration and that any premises upon which the business of a second-hand dealer is carried out shall also be registered and that registration of the dealer and premises remain in force for three years.

(2) To provide that every person so registered must keep a record of all transactions relating to second-hand goods including a description of the articles, the name and address of the person from whom the articles were acquired and the odometer reading and registration number of any vehicle acquired. A record must also be made of any transaction in which a second-hand article is sold for more than £100 and that the record shall be kept for a period of 2 years and must be produced on request to an authorised officer of the Council or a police constable.

(3) To provide that it shall be an offence to deal in second-hand goods without having registered in accordance with the provisions of the Bill, to enter information in the record or give such information that is known to be false and to acquire second-hand goods from persons under 16 years old, where the price paid or the value of the goods exceeds £10.

(4) To make provisions relating to occasional sales and squat trading, including the giving of notice to the Council 21 days in advance of the holding of an occasional sale or the carrying out of squat trading, if no such notice is given and the Council or the police suspect that any such sale or trading is to take place, is taking place or has taken place they may demand certain information about the sale from the holder of the sale or person carrying out the trading. Provision is also made for the keeping of records by the holder of certain sales and the person who holds the sale or carries out the squat trading must display his name and business address at the sale or place of trading and on any notices relating thereto.

(5) To enact provisions of a general nature applicable to the Bill including powers of entry, inspection and examination, obstruction of authorised officers, liability of directors, defence of due diligence and the application of certain provisions of the Bill to the County Council.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at a price of £1 per copy at the offices of the undersigned County Secretary and Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the House of Commons will be 6th February 1999, if the Bill originates in the House of Commons. Information regarding the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 1998

G.D. WILD
The Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ
County Secretary.

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House,
Fulwood Place,
London, WC1V 6HG.
Parliamentary Agents.

Legal Notices

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99

BAKI PARTNERSHIP LIMITED TRUSTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Baki Partnership Limited and the Trustees of an employee benefit trust (hereinafter referred to as "Trust No 2") for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

1. To validate certain actions taken in the past by the trustees of two employee benefit trusts (Trusts No. 1 and No. 2) established by Baki Partnership Limited, a private holding company, where doubt has been cast over whether those actions were technically in conformity with the said trusts.

2. To provide for the amendment of Trust No.2 by the replacement of its substantive provisions by the provisions set out in the Bill.

3. To disapply the rules of law relating to perpetuities and perpetual trusts and any other enactment or rule of law restricting the accumulation of income under a trust insofar as they relate to Trust No.2 as amended by the Bill.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at a price of £1 per copy at the offices of the Company Secretary of Baki Partnership Limited, Brownedge Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 6SN and the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the House of Commons will be 6th February 1999, if the Bill originates in the House of Commons. Information regarding the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 1998

ADDLESHAW BOOTH & CO.,
100 Barbican Lane,
Manchester, M2 3AB.
Solicitors.

CHARLES RUSSELL
8-10 New Fetter Lane,
London, EC4A 3NS.
Solicitors.

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House,
Fulwood Place,
London, WC1V 6HG.
Parliamentary Agents.

No. 006725 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF CAPLIN CYBERNETICS CORPORATION LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the consideration of the share premium account of the above-named Company, and NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 9th December, 1998.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the date of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 30th day of November, 1998.

Paragon of Castle Street,
Reading RG1 7SR
Solicitors to the Company

The Insolvency Act 1986 (SOLVING) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 11th December 1998 at 4.00pm at the offices of the undersigned at 12, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JH for the purpose of considering the proposed liquidation of the Company.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the undersigned, as Liquidator, is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 25th day of November 1998

By Order of the Board
D. HENDERSON, For and on behalf of J & F Spence Administration SL Ltd, Directors of J & F Property Holdings (Solvol) Ltd.

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IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

19: THE MOUNTAIN BIKE BY ANDREW MARTIN

BIKES USED to be sold by oily little men with rolled-up cigarettes behind their ears, and their shops had names like "W. Earnshaw: Bikes". They sold thin, elegant machines with wide seats supported by admittedly not very springy springs, three gears or five at the most, saddle bags on the back or baskets on the front. One of the most vibrant colours that they came in was brown.

Today, bike shops are called witty but somehow annoying things like "Spokes Persons", and if you go into one and ask for a traditional bike of the sort described above, the young, disturbingly fit-looking assistant will seem perplexed: "But how would you go downhilling in the Cairngorms on a machine like that?" he'll say. "Try taking it through Epping Forest, and it'll explode."

You explain that you don't want to go "off-road". You want to go "on-road". On an actual road, that is, the one that leads to your place of work, or the shops. The assistant will look at you blankly, for his shop will be full of squat, garishly hued machines designed to be ridden over rough

terrain: mountain bikes.

Like many terrible things, mountain bikes were invented in California by a bunch of hippies who, in the late Seventies, had nothing better to do than go very fast down steep and bumpy hills. For the past 20 years they've been the staple of the British bike industry, and their defenders say they've made cycling credible and exciting.

What I say is that they are a snare - certainly as far as the average road-user is concerned. The knobby tyres of mountain bikes might be handy in Epping Forest, but they're no less likely to

puncture than ordinary ones and, when you go around a street corner, they squirm in a worrying way. The numerous gears - anything from 18 to 27 - are unnecessary, and such are complications of the front and back cogs that many are duplicates of others. Mountain bikes have quick-release wheels - ideal for changing punctures rapidly. Ideal, also, for thieves.

What they don't have is mudguards, so you get a brown streak up your back on rainy days.

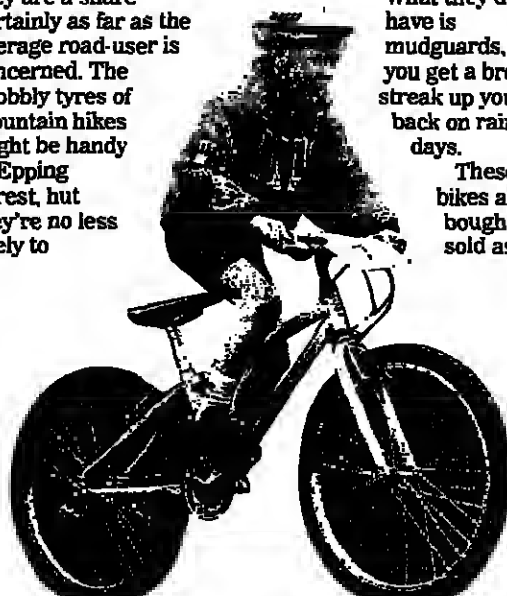
These bikes are bought and sold as

fashion items, and the accessories have been jazzed up and euphemised accordingly. "Cycle clips" was a very good description of what cycle clips are. Now they're called "reflecting trouser hands". Saddle bags, which tended to cost about £5, are deemed to be too dour for the modern cyclist.

Now you must have a pannier on a rack, which can only be fitted by someone who's spent the past 10 years fitting panniers on racks on to bikes. The total cost for this fixture plus fitting might easily be £60.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, however. It may be that people are realising that they haven't taken their mountain bikes into Epping Forest much at all over the past few months. Or, indeed, ever. And there seems to be a resurgent demand for ordinary bikes, especially of the sort ridden in Amsterdam. They are thin, elegant things with wide seats supported by admittedly not very springy springs, and three gears or five at the most.

Mountain bike madness may soon be over.



Storm in a basil pot

Continued from page 1 slept with anything that moved. He was the man on the boat or, rather, they were the couple who set out to live on a boat, in 1939. "But you can say all those words and he would be nothing more than colourful," says Lisa. "And I think he was much more than that. I think he's the only truly Romantic figure in her life, and the only hero figure, except for her father."

But, I say, hardly anyone knew about him. "I know. But some of the most magical symbols in your life are things you don't talk about very much. She did an awful lot of hiding. She hid from herself. That's why she drank."

It took hours and hours of interviews for Lisa Chaney to find the real Elizabeth. She did not ask the literary executor's permission, because she knew it would not be given. She says that Jill Norman was consistently obstructive but that, in the end, she didn't care.

"It got to the point where I felt liberated about not writing an authorised book - after I'd gone through this thing where people would not talk about this bit or that bit of her life. They only wanted to talk about the nice, clean Elizabeth. But I'd got through that and people were telling me about the real Elizabeth. If this were authorised, I might have to write about the clean, tidy Elizabeth. How boring! You can write euphemisti-

cally and say in a polite way that someone was grumpy, or drank quite a lot or was forceful with ideas. But I didn't want to write a dead book. At a certain point, I just thought, Ohhh, it is fantastic not having to do that!"

Jill Norman does not agree. "I'm sure Elizabeth David would not have wanted this book. She was very ambivalent about whether she wanted a biography written at all. Quite often, she said no and was quite firm... I think she would be annoyed at the kind of conclusions Lisa Chaney draws."

Like what? "I'm sorry, I don't want to be drawn into that."



Elizabeth David

Presumably we will find out when the authorised biography comes out next year. Jill Norman tells me that after

Elizabeth's death she was approached by several "reputable" biographers. "I said no to all of them because I did not think they were right. Lisa Chaney did not ask permission. She just went ahead and did it."

And Elizabeth David would approve of that.

IN THE MATTER OF SAFFRAK LTD T/A HENDON GLAZING AND WINDOW CO.

(In Liquidation)
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
INSOLVENTY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 3.10(6) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 26 November 1998, I, Steven Leslie Smith, of 72 London Road, St Albans, Herts SG8 1JH was appointed liquidator of the above named company in the members and creditors.

STEVEN LESLIE SMITH Liquidator
Date 26 November 1998

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AND DIRECT

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Fashion. What a scream!

The Clothes Show may be dead and buried on TV, but once a year it's dragged kicking and screaming to life. By Tamsin Blanchard

It's brash. It's bright. Its decibel levels are ear-splitting. Screaming teenagers love it; this is their idea of heaven. It is also most fashion editors' idea of hell. This Friday, the doors to the NEC in Birmingham will be opened by the TV presenters Jamie Theakston, Jayne Middlemiss and Tim Vincent and the BBC's Clothes Show Live monster will be unleashed.

This year, the show that has become something of an institution celebrates its 10th anniversary. It boasts more than 400 stands selling cut-price designer clothing and high-street labels; the catwalk theatre is more like a rock stadium with almost 7,000 seats. And last year the show attracted 250,000 fashion followers with a combined estimated spending power of £10.6m. Whoever said fashion was inaccessible and elitist? The Clothes Show Live is like one huge fashion orgy. Anything goes.

The main attraction for most teenage girls, however, is not so much the idea of some Christmas shopping and party frock bargains, as the opportunity to be talent scouted by a model agency. This year's Supermodel of the World (Miss World, but for models), 16-year-old Katie Burrell, was discovered there by Models One, as was the real supermodel of the world, Erin O'Connor. All the big agencies have a stand there, including Kate Moss's agency, Storm.

"It's great for us because we always find hundreds of models," says Paula Karaiskos from Storm. This year, Storm is holding a competition, in conjunction with B magazine, to find a cover girl.

On Friday, the trained eyes of the agency's founder, Sarah Doukas - the woman who spotted Kate Moss at JFK airport - will be out on stalks. She will join her team of eight bookers, who will be at the show for the entire nine days. Over the weekend, reinforcements will be on hand, making the team 13-strong. There will also be models - there are rumours that Sophie Dahl may be there, although her fellow Storm model Carla Bruni will most certainly not be - joining in the fun; they often make the best talent scouts.

Storm's days of scouting at Clothes Show Live have paid off. They now have a long list of girls and boys who were spotted at the show and have gone on to find fame and fortune. Polly Robinson was discovered at Clothes Show Live in 1994. Now 22, her face has graced the



Bright young, fashionable things vie for the attention of the model agencies at last year's 'Clothes Show Live': many famous faces were first spotted there

Niall McInerney

pages of Italian *Vogue*, *Marie Claire*, and French *Elle* as well as advertising campaigns for Nina Ricci, l'Oréal, Rimmel and Vidal Sassoon. Newer additions include Adelaide Thompson, Caroline Cane, Chloe Webb, Liz Simpson and several others who are all still at school but who have the opportunity of earning

"pocket money" (up to £30,000 for a TV commercial) in their summer holidays before signing up for full-time work. Three Storm boys - James Heathcote, James Poulton and Sid Webb - were also Clothes Show Live discoveries.

The Clothes Show Live event is also a great opportunity for a bit of

celebrity spotting. Many of the designers go, and it is a rare opportunity to buy your dress straight from the designer. Andrew Flonda and Ren Pearce of Pearce Flonda will be happy to give you some expert advice about what you should be wearing. Antoni of Antoni & Alison will be there too, offering fun and frocks and

service with a cheeky smile. And over the weekend, Ben de Lisi will be playing shop assistant for the fourth time.

"I find it very exciting and enlightening," he says, earplugs at the ready. "I'm always amazed that people know who I am. And they come to really spend."

The first time he sold at the show, he was astonished by the queues and the fact that his stock of T-shirts sold out before the end of the second day. As well as bargain-priced end-of-season and current stock, de Lisi will also be selling pieces designed exclusively for the show, including a "very sexy, very

tight pencil skirt", and sequined dresses. They will sell between £50 and £100.

For most of those attending Clothes Show Live, however, the real thrill is seeing a catwalk show. These are nothing like real-life shows. These are more fun, more noisy, more brash, and more... well, just more everything.

And if all that makes you want to go and clear out your wardrobe to make room for your new purchases, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) is inviting the public to bring their unwanted clothes with them to add to a clothes mountain that will no doubt reach monumental heights as the week progresses. The clothes will then be distributed between BHF shops and sold to raise money for the charity.

The BBC's Clothes Show Live is at the NEC from 4 to 9 December. Admission times are 9am to 6.30pm. Tickets cost £19 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) or £14 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). Tickets can be booked in advance with a credit card on 0121-767 4444.

CLOTHES SHOW LIVE - THE SHOPPING HOT SPOTS

Antoni & Alison
According to Antoni, the show is like a week-long office party with lots of inter-stand romance. "It's a pop experience; it's quick, it's fun and it's full of energy," he says. "This year we have produced a souvenir piece for the year 2000." It's a T-shirt and a bag, but the designers won't say any more. Prices are "realistic".

Ben de Lisi
This is the fourth year that Ben de Lisi has been showing at the event. Last year members of the public elbowed Claire Sweeney

(Linsey Phelan of *Brookside*) out of their way to get their hands on the merchandise. Prices from £50 for a skirt.

Ted Baker
Donald Browne of Ted Baker attends every year. "The CSL is an excellent way of meeting the customers and getting feedback," he says. Expect to queue for logo T-shirts for men and women. T-shirts usually sell for £25 each but will be reduced to £15. There will also be aftershave on sale at the special price of £10 rather than the usual £20.

Gash
Denise Van Outen, Bewitched and Zoe Ball wear this Sheffield-based clubwear label. The designer Julia Gash will be at the show. "It's a really good place to do research, meet the customer, and get reaction to the new lines," she says. Some 90 per cent of Gash's customers are young women and teenage girls who can't get enough of the label's signature Glitter Star Baby T-shirts and their kitsch and colourful dresses. Also on sale will be its "depraved" and "corrupt" logo knickers and

dresses at super knock-down prices. From £5.

John Richmond
The designer might make an appearance this weekend. On sale will be this season's main line collection and a chance to have a sneak preview at a few pieces for spring/summer. The diffusion line and John Richmond denim are also available, with prices ranging from £25 for a top to £180 for a jacket.

Rise
This is the second time this

clubwear label has had a stand. Last time they sold 3,000 pieces. They are making T-shirts and bags for the event. Stock will be Christmas dresses, feather boas and sequined boob tubes. Prices are from £10. AMY JONES

The final countdown to catwalk glory

On Friday, five young photographers will be snapping their way towards the title of The Independent/Clothes Show Live Young

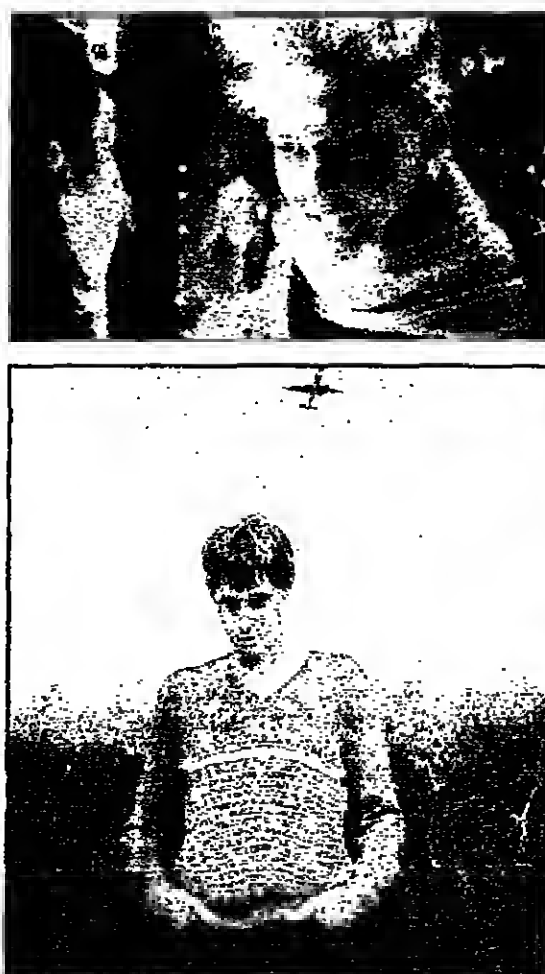
Catwalk Photographer of the Year. Here we announce the finalists and publish some of their work



Calim Renton



Anna Thompson



Alex Dale, above, and Merry Brownfield, top



Amanda Cannon

سكرا من الاصل



Dickins & Jones dreamer: Black dress, £430, by MaxMara, from Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, London W1 and branches (0171-734 7070)



Debenhams doll
Fuchsia velvet dress, £180, by BDL at Debenhams, 334-358 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches (0171-408 4444); shoes, £195, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1



Liberty belle
Turquoise shell top, £339, rose print skirt, £755, scarf, £135, all by Dries Van Noten, from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234)



Selfridges slicker
Black top, £260, denim pedal pushers, £160, both by Seraph, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234), and Manchester, (0161-629 1234)



Harvey Nicks chick
Cowl neck jumper, £570, jacket, £1400, and trousers, £440, all by Givenchy, from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW3, (0171-584 0011) and Leeds (0113 2048888)

Stores in their eyes

Are you Harvey Nicks chick or a Liberty belle? You may not know yourself, but the big department stores doing battle for your pounds certainly do. By **Melanie Rickey**

The battle of the department stores has commenced. The lines are drawn: in Knightsbridge, Marble Arch, Oxford Street and Regent Street, glittery Christmas window displays are fighting for supremacy and shoppers are poised for their yearly pilgrimage to London's shrines to consumerism. But where to go? Which store has got it all? Or, more to the point, which store has got everything you desire or aspire to? Are you a Harvey Nichols woman? (There are at least 50,000 in the UK.) Or do you wish you were, but really end up in Miss Selfridge or Top Shop? Perhaps you are Debenhams woman? (The UK has 1.1 million.) Or does Dickins & Jones suit your tastes?

The good news is that each of the five department stores we have chosen has carved out its own niche; all cater to different types of women and their fashion preferences. Harvey Nichols, for example, is known as the ultimate store for devotees of expensive high fashion, closely followed by Liberty and Selfridges.

Indeed, no episode of *Absolutely Fabulous* went by without some reference to "Harvey Nicks", and with good reason, for it is truly the place to indulge a fashion fantasy. But it is not swarming with fashion editors and real-life Edinmas and Fays. "That is a misconception," says Anna Marie Solowij, the editor of Harvey Nichols' quarterly glossy magazine. "Through research we found that our core customers are single women between the ages of 26 and 55 who work in television, film, the arts or design. I reckon most of them are in their thirties, 85 per cent of them work, and their average salary is £33,000 a year. Most important, [our customer] is not a fashion victim because she knows exactly what she wants out of fashion. In fact she's someone I'd quite like to be," she says - and who wouldn't?

In the past, Harvey Nichols woman has been a Sloane, a glamour queen, a fashion freak and a bit of an upmarket Shazza; but today she is altogether more cued-up, chic and stylish.

"She generally doesn't wait to see what's on the rails," continues Solowij. "She starts mentally buying as soon as the catwalk reports for the following season appear in the newspapers. We had a waiting-list of 30 women for the grey cashmere Fendi Baguette clutch bag a few weeks

after it appeared on the catwalk, but the buyers bought only eight for the store, because they cost £595 each. It was a similar story for Matthew Williamson's beaded 'snowflake' skirt, which sold out before we had a chance to put it on the rails."

Among the most popular labels in Harvey Nichols are Costume National, Ann Demeulemeester, Michael Kors, Calvin Klein mainline, Dolce & Gabbana and Givenchy - hardly the kind of overblown glamour you would immediately expect from the shop. Antony Miles, head of press relations, puts its fashion success down to a careful editing process between catwalk and shop floor. "We sell only the best pieces from a collection - we call them the 'edited highlights' - and this saves our customers trawling through the store to find what they want."

Selfridges, too, has recently cottoned on to the idea of selling the highlights of directional collections, and has even given them a new place to live, thanks to a refurbishment of the store, which will celebrate its 90th birthday next year. Some pundits say that the "Design Lab" on the second floor is the coolest fashion pit-stop in London, thanks to its eclectic mix of contemporary designer labels - some new and untried, such as Y-Dress, Wim Neels and Jurgi Persoon's, some established, such as Min Min, Alessandro Dell'Acqua, D&G, C&A, and DKNY and others. Selfridges call "dynamic", such as Margiela 6, Owen Gaster, Sonja Nuttall and Hussein Chalayan. Susanne Tide-Prater, the head of fashion direction, has been on a mission to separate the store into coherent fashion areas. "Selfridges is like a town where you can buy absolutely anything," she says, "but we do focus different areas. The second floor, for example, is for fashion-literate consumers, and covers everything from diffusion lines such as Philosophy and Sportmax, to lifestyle brands such as Nicole Farhi and MaxMara. This is in addition to the Design Lab, and, of course we have Miss Selfridge and Spirit," she adds, referring to the huge area for teenage fashion on the ground floor.

But that is not all. On the upper levels of Selfridges they do a roaring trade in tried and tested fashion labels. The Marellas, Viyellas, Feminellas, Four Seasons and Windmoors of this world may sound like tampon brands, but both Selfridges and Dickins & Jones cater to thousands and thou-

sands of women who keep coming back to buy these labels because they are reliable, and do the job for British women who, as we all know now, average a size 16, and don't have £150 to spend on a designer skirt.

Dickins & Jones is probably the best place in London for older fashion customers, and those who don't fit into the typical "fashion" bracket of a size 10-12, high-maintenance woman. It does cater to the young market, with every diffusion jeans line on the planet, and sports ranges from American designers such as Ralph Lauren, but its strong points are the lingerie department, which has amazing finds tucked away in shady corners, the shop's own label, Linea, which is well priced and offers all the key fashion trends, and the plus sizes, coats, and casual wear on the upper floors, which take ages to walk around, but are worth the schlep.

"The important thing for us at Dickins & Jones is that we offer variety," says a spokeswoman. "We don't want to alienate our core clientele." Namely, the 45-65 age group. Two of the store's most successful labels are MaxMara and another, lesser known American brand, St John, which provides a version of Chanel's classic Eighties look of neat two-piece tweed suiting with trimming and gilt buttons. A particularly amusing section belongs to YSL Variation, whose girlish leopard-print dresses and red-and-blue chocolate-foil-wrapping jackets are pure Blondie circa 1981. On my visit to the store it was the busiest section, next to MaxMara.

Over in Debenhams they take a totally different approach to high fashion. In fact, they don't stock a single high-fashion label, but have cleverly, some would say brilliantly, captured the diffusion line market by inviting designers to guest-design collections exclusively for them. Ben de Lisi, (BDL), Pearce Fionda, (Pearce II Fionda), and Jasper Conran, (J), capsule collections for the store have been a major draw over the last few years, and Debenhams continues to build on this success with new names. Interestingly, the company report reveals that it considers its rivals to be Marks & Spencer, Bhs and Boots, not Harvey Nichols or Selfridges, and that womenswear, which accounts for 41 per cent of sales, is the most important part of the business. "Our philosophy at Debenhams is 'num-

ber one for choice and value,'" says Belinda Earl, a trading director, "and we offer this through our exclusive brand offering." To translate, this means that Debenhams develops its own in-house lines, much like M&S and Bhs, and that its 92 stores nationwide are the only places to buy them. Their policy works: at the last count the company had 2.3 million active storecard holders.

There is only one department store in London that hasn't broken down its customer to the nth degree, and that is Liberty. "It is definitely not an age thing at Liberty," says Angela Quaintrell, the senior fashion buyer. "It's a spirit thing. The Liberty woman is definable only by the way she dresses to please herself. She is not a sheep; she loves and understands textiles, and appreciates good design." Lovers of the offbeat and unusual in fashion flock to Liberty for its vast array of labels, which covers the Japanese crew, including Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake, the English eccentrics Zandra Rhodes, Charles and Patricia Lester and Helen David, the Brit Fashion gang of Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan, Clements Ribeiro and YMC, and the modern Continental designers Helmut Lang and Kostas Murkudis. Far and away Liberty's most successful labels, however, fall under the lifestyle brand: Shirin Guild, Nicole Farhi, Betty Jackson, Dries Van Noten and Wall. "We sell about 90-100 pieces of Shirin Guild a week," says Quaintrell, "it is our absolute best-seller."

Liberty is also a pleasure to shop in. The staff leave you alone, and they do cute Christmas presents such as stuffed Liberty purple frogs, and a beautiful range of own-label velvet and embroidered scarves (which are currently on special offer: buy any velvet bag and receive 20 per cent off any scarf purchase).

If you haven't worked out which department store woman you are yet, try my little trick. Look in the café of each store, and if you feel that you would fit in there, that's your store. Easy, eh? I'd better start saving up for my Givenchy coat; the coffee at the Fifth Floor Café in Harvey Nichols is divine.

Photographer: Anna Stevenson. Stylist: Holly Wood. Hair and make-up: Helen Walsh at GSM. Model: Erica at Models One

Once more into the bleach

Welcome to the small time. Welcome to the cheesy, self-deluding world of the tribute band – the place in which pop finally gets to eat itself. But wait. The figures say this isn't the small time at all. This is pop's Third Way. By Ed Shelton

Two friends of mine have a novel way of attracting the attention of young women in bars. One dresses up in a sharp suit and dark glasses and sits alone near a group of girls. After 10 minutes the second one joins him, introducing himself loudly as the man from *The Times*, and proceeds to conduct a mock interview about the new album and the pressures of touring.

According to the growing number of musicians who make a living playing in tribute bands, the claim that this routine facilitates many fruitful introductions may be true. The public do not know the difference, they say, between a pretend pop star and a real one.

John Mainwaring, who has been on the circuit for seven years with his David Bowie tribute Jean Genie, says: "For years I could not understand it. Everyone in the room knows I am not him, but women still scream and throw their knickers. It wasn't until I saw a really good Neil Diamond tribute that I understood that there is something a little spooky about someone who is that close to the original. It's the spookiness which gets the reaction."

Donna Trafford, who plays Stevie Nicks in the Fleetwood Mac tribute band Fleetwood Bac, concurs: "We get lots of crazy fan mail: 'Stevie, Stevie, we love you.' They are totally nuts," she says. Even 25-year-old Sam Hill says she appears to get mistaken for Debbie Harry (52) when she is doing her Blondie tribute *Once More Into the Bleach*. "They ask me why I am no longer playing with the same band. They do not seem to understand that I am not really Debbie."

The public's willingness to suspend its disbelief in this way may go some way to explain the incredible growth in the popularity of tribute bands in the last couple of years. No longer are tribute artists regarded as little better than celebrity stalkers with a penchant for karaoke. Now, saluting your hero by forming a tribute band is regarded as both a legitimate step on the way to becoming a superstar for young musicians, or as a respectable bolt-hole for those who have given up trying with their own material.

Some testament to the new-found acceptability of this musical form of pantomime comes from last month's MTV Music Awards in Milan, the pinnacle of music fashion-consciousness, at which a tribute band, the Cheeky Monkees, was booked to play at the unfeasibly cool after-show party.

"Only recently has what we do become acceptable. What is happening



Daz Cox of the Generation Preachers prepares to face the fans; right: scenes from London's premier tribute band venue, The Venue in New Cross Bill Chaffy

would have been totally unacceptable in the Eighties. No one would have thought of being so uncool," says Jean Genie's Mainwaring.

This respectability has expanded the tribute market hugely. Most noticeably, it is not just acts with worldwide appeal and illustrious careers behind them that get the tribute treatment. Now, a couple of hits and an album are deemed to be worthy of tribute. Hence the 12 or so Spice Girl

tributes of recent times: Spice it Up, Spiced, the Spice Girls, the Spicelish Girls, Nice 'n' Spicy, the Brit Girls, Old Spice, Nearly Spice and so on.

And it is not just seasoned musicians looking for easy money who get involved. Often it is twentysomethings getting involved in their first band. Neil Cross, the guitarist in the T-Rex tribute band T-Rextasy, one of the oldest tribute bands, explains the attractions. "We have all been to original bands. It is a waste of time," he says. "You record demos and the record companies just throw them in the bin. This is much better. In our band we work every weekend. Last Christmas we played 24 gigs in 23 days. We go to Germany about four times a year. It's a good life."

Although those at the top of the tribute tree, such as T-Rextasy, Bootleg Beatles and Björn Again, can make £10,000 a night, for many

tributes life is far less glamorous. "We played lots of over-sized bingo halls in northern towns that looked like one big bus shelter," says Liz Norden, ex-keyboard player in Fleetwood Bac. "Places that you wouldn't even imagine if you lived in London."

"In some towns we would go down really well and it would be great fun. At other times we would get all dressed up to play half-empty halls and I would sit in the van on



well organised, whereas for original bands, being in a band is often a lifestyle choice."

At a Generation Preachers gig at The Venue last month there certainly seemed to be no shortage of punters happy with the form. "It's Friday night, I am seeing a band I know I will like in a small venue," said one. The evening began with curious fans standing soberly with arms folded in a non-committal way, waiting to be impressed by the evening's stooges. Within half an hour the necessary buttons had been pushed, and the band had been accepted as worthy recipients of the audience's transferred affections. On the dance floor groups of student types made merry to the replicated sounds of their heroes. An evening with the real thing was an unfeasibly expensive proposition, but here in a medium-sized hall in south London, dreams of a sort were coming true. The evening had a slightly surreal air: everyone knew the band could not be the real thing, but they looked and sounded right.

The real test is how the stars themselves react to their tribute. Many tributes have met, or at least had contact with their originals. "That's one of the best bits," says Fleetwood Bac's Trafford, who at every gig wonders whether Mick Fleetwood might be there. He has indeed received a letter from the lanky drummer saying he will surprise them one day.

Jean Genie's Mainwaring has a relationship with Bowie of sorts, although they have never met. He has used the same backing band as Bowie and the same producer for recorded work, so they have mutual acquaintances. He also leaves the Thin White Duke notes. "I played the Olympia Theatre in Dublin the night before Bowie recently and left him a note stuck to the dressing-room mirror telling him I was just one step behind," he says.

The tribute business has the feeling of being pop's own Third Way. In the early days of pop its stars were simply performers for whom material was written by teams of professional songwriters in tin-pan alley. Then came the second generation, led by The Beatles, who demystified the songwriting process, paving the way for millions of hands keen to write original material. Now, it is all about either sampling other people's work or replicating as closely as possible the sound and style of past great acts. Pop's Third Way is pop's future and, whether you like it or not, it works.

The author plays Joe Strummer in *Black Market Clash* – now booking for Christmas

Love's a hurtin' thing

HOW DO we place Nick Lowe these days? With care, I think. Not that he's so tough, though his songs would like to make you think his heart's firmed up round the edges. Rather, the problem is one of geographical location.

Still known as Basher, the boy (OK, a year off 50) from Walton-on-Thames no longer belts out the jovial stuff of his post-punk heyday (you'll remember "I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass"); his soul has moved far, far west, hovering around the American states of Tennessee and Texas, taking on, and making it his own, the stripped-down darkness of Hank Williams or the eerie laments of his ex-father-in-law Johnny Cash.

Fittingly, Lowe has shipped over the legendary R&B songwriters Dan Penn and Spoon-

POP
NICK LOWE/ DAN PENN/
SPOONER OLDHAM
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE
LONDON

er Oldham to set the tone. Gifted white guys from Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Penn and Oldham spent their youth composing Southern soul for respected black artists who were proud to sing it, but they put over the songs themselves just as fruitfully. They gave us "I'm Your Puppet", then a grainy country-soul interpretation of "Cry Like a Baby". "Dark End of the Street" was embattled with guilt and pain; illicit love has never been so beautifully explained. For an encore they sang a deadpan version of "Spend Some Time with the Old Folks" ("they've all had

heart attacks and light strokes"). Rare stuff.

Lowe, minutes later, was something more shadowy. A cool-looking dude with a ludicrous white quiff, he opened his solo acoustic set with "In The Middle of It All", an offhand tale of calamitous desolation during which, this early, you could bear sniffing along the row. "Soulful Wind" showed his guitar dexterity, a rock-a-cha rhythm that broke to deliver a rising tornado when it bad to. Lowe in relaxed, Buddy Holly voice – when he lightens up, his sensibility has a pre-Beatles, almost pre-Bill Haley shimmer.

He was joined by a tight little trio whose warmth, particularly Geraint Evans on keyboards, made "Cruel To Be Kind" and "Half a Boy and Half a Man" almost Cajun affairs; but what Lowe mainly

purveys is tribulation-hollowed blues. Tracks from his album *Dig My Mood* made it clear that "love's a hurtin' thing", and on "Lover, Don't Go", his voice barely rose above a death rattle. The woe and consequent stories of embittered curmudgeons (like the Cash-ready "The Kind of Man That I've Become," whose "heart's a plum") couldn't exist if the singer hadn't cared too much to begin with; and Lowe's devotionals are masterful. Creeping out early to get a jump on my copy, I'm stopped in my tracks by a delicate cascade of notes, and so is a bouncy bounce in the hall. Both of us pussy-foot back, open the auditorium door a crack, and listen to "Shelley, My Love". As it ends, the big guy's hitting his lip.

GLYN BROWN

As pioneering as you can get

CLASSICAL
ELLIOTT CARTER
BARBICAN
LONDON

ELLIOTT CARTER'S 90th birthday falls on 11 December, but the Barbican celebrated it on Saturday evening, and, from the appearance of the composer, it didn't seem they were tempting fate by being premature. Though the prospect of octogenarian composers is almost a modern commonplace, Carter remains exceptional for both physical and intellectual vigour. Those genes are worth posterity's attention, never mind the music.

As it was, the notes were the focus for a large and receptive audience for the London Symphony Orchestra, and in the first half of the concert, for the Arditti String Quartet, who played the composer's Fifth Quartet, and, with pianist Ursula Oppens, his recent *Piano Quintet*. The evening was billed as part of the "Amer-

ican Pioneers" series; and these chamber pieces are as pioneering as you get these days. Analogies with human discourse lie behind many of Carter's finest scores. The Fifth Quartet, however, takes the idea of discourse further: to the dialogue of players in rehearsal, trying out fragments of musical things to come, but in no particular order.

So the piece, by a kind of sleight of hand, is its own mirror image in performance and rehearsal, theoretically a fearsome prospect but in practice achieved with grace and wit. True, the sombre opening

gestures of solo strings implied some weighty argument to follow. But this only enhanced the later pleasure of finding the composer in almost skittish mood. The Arditti played with dedicated understanding, and in the London premiere of the *Piano Quintet*, refined their powers to let Oppens exploit a spasmodically virtuosic piano part that began in its opening pages from the premise of a single tone.

Here, it was role reversal that seemed the operative analogy. From having next to nothing to say, merely uttering mild protests against arching lines of polyphony, the piano came to dominate. Matters, however, were never that easy, and the ending, a gesture that promised to begin the piece again, was reached less by consensus than by agreeing to disagree.

For *Symphonia*, the triptych assembled from orchestral pieces written during Carter's energetic eighties, conductor Oliver Knussen played up the LSO's resources for colour, not just the baying horns of the opening partita, but also the sepulchral tuba and double bassoon of the adagio tenebroso. The contrast between these points of darkness and the solo piccolo conclusion of the third and final movement, allegro scorevole, was a kind of ascent, but out of that of the usual blazing symphonic ending. Rather, the gossamer textures and deft impressionism of the third movement, flowing freely across the entire sound spectrum, engaged the enraptured ear. Even at 90, Carter retains his power to surprise, and to do so rather well.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

A near-perfect landing

CLASSICAL
HUDDERSFIELD
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE 21ST Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival concluded on Sunday with Steve Reich and Beryl Korot's *Hindenburg*. Drawing on images of German general who gave his name to the infamous zeppelin, an unfinished version was seen at the Barbican a year ago. This was the British premiere of the complete, half-hour piece; though it is just the first act of a "documentary video opera" entitled *Three Tales*, the two subsequent acts of which promise more direct confrontation with the trilogy's underlying "debate about the physical, ethical, religious and spiritual nature of... expanding technological development".

With a certain irony, *Three Tales* takes advantage of recent advances in video technology to manipulate archival footage on a single screen in highly malleable ways. Though strictly speaking a "concert performance" – lacking the rudimentary staging included at the Barbican – what we saw in Huddersfield provided more than sufficient to engage both eye and ear.

Korot's deft and individual deployment of the remarkable results of her archival researches and Reich's long-familiar ability to conjure real contrapuntal drama out of simple materials activated by rhythmic repetition complement each other perfectly to produce results that are compelling both on a moment-to-moment level and as an unfolding structure. In the first of the new scenes, for example, "Nibelung Zeppelin", footage of the airship under construction is accompanied by music based on the Anvil motif from Wagner's *Das Rheingold*; a response still surprising from a composer originally renowned (if not entirely accurately) for his avoidance of such emotive references. The effect of this allusion was appropriately disturbing, its amusement value caught in the lowering presence of a deep dominant pedal point.

As a whole, *Hindenburg* remains a degree of narrative thread to which Reich's music responds with impressively cumulative effect, though – perhaps understandably, given its function in the complete work to come – it seems to stop abruptly rather than conclude matters. The one aberration aside, all the performances in this all-Reich Town Hall programme – the lion's share taken by Ensemble Bash, and the conductor Nicholas Kok – were excellent.

In the course of the final weekend of what by all accounts has been a notably successful festival this year, I also particularly admired Music Theatre Wales' production of Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy*, already seen else-



Steve Reich: his music responds well to the narrative

where, and Richard Casey and Nicolas Hodges' noble assault on an alarmingly varied sequence of compositions for two pianists. This included the European premiere of John Adams' *Hallelujah Junction*, a

substantial 15-minute piece, the contrapuntal virtuosity and emotional complexity of which restored my faith in this composer after the disappointment of his recent piano concerto.

KEITH POTTER

DONMAR

'BRILLIANTLY INVENTIVE AND ENTERTAINING'

INTO THE WOODS

'QUIZZICAL, SOPHISTICATED AND IRONIC... A WONDERFUL SHOW'

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

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BARBICAN ST. WC2

1 More than a fair Exchange

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Manchester's Royal Exchange officially reopens next week on time and on budget. But will its artistic vision match its architectural flair? By Daniel Rosenthal

For two-and-a-half years, the Royal Exchange Theatre Company has been absent from its home in the heart of Manchester. Forced out by the IRA bomb that devastated the city centre on 15 June, 1996, it has stayed away for a £23m lottery rebuilding and refurbishment programme. While similar capital projects at other venues have been dogged by fundraising and construction delays, the Exchange's architects, Levitt Bernstein, have smoothly fashioned what one leading architecture critic has hailed as "the most fabulous modern theatre in Britain".

Happily, the unique theatre space has been left intact. Instead, the design has concentrated on a superb refurbishment of its surroundings and technical facilities, all of which has been matched by a declaration of intent from the artistic directors, Braham Murray, Gregory Hersov and Matthew Lloyd.

Last June, on the second anniversary of the bombing, they unveiled a 13-month season, which runs from now until January 2000. Over that period the 750-seat theatre-in-the-round will offer world premieres by Peter Barnes and Jim Cartwright alongside A-list revivals, including Tom Courtenay in *King Lear* and David Threlfall in *Peer Gynt*. An inaugural seven-month season in the 120-seat Studio theatre includes new plays and children's shows.

It is doubtful that any other regional company has ever committed itself so far in advance, yet, in commercial terms, the decision has already been resoundingly vindicated. Some 3,600 season tickets for the main house have been sold, bringing in more than £400,000. At the end of a troubled decade - heavy financial losses, some pedestrian programming, the bomb - the Exchange, says Lloyd, is ready "to cut a swathe through the future".

Such confidence is partly explained by the fact that the Exchange maintained a strong profile during the redevelopment. Within two weeks of the bombing - which caused extensive exterior damage to the Victorian Exchange building but, miraculously, did not harm the seven-sided steel module housing the theatre - the company's mobile 400-seat, tented replica of the theatre-in-the-round had been set up in nearby Upper Campfield Market.

The remaining performances of Stanley Houghton's 1912 generation-gap drama, *Hindle Wakes*, were cancelled but *The Philadelphia Story* opened as planned a few weeks later. "We were the first big organisation to be up and running after the

bomb," recalls Murray. "That created a lot of affection for us." Lottery plans drawn up before the bombing were revised, and the company continued performing "if we had not had the mobile, I don't think this company would still exist. The Arts Council would never have kept subsidising us."

With so much of the retail space beside the Exchange still a mass of post-bomb reconstruction, the symbolic value of the company's return

say in the premieres of *The Dresser* and Alan Price's *Andy Capp* musical, both of which - and numerous others - transferred to the West End. There were also successful seasons at the Roundhouse.

Associates who benefited from the challenge of directing in a space which, says Lloyd, "tests and exposes actors like no other venue", included young talent who swiftly emerged as some of the country's most important directors: Nicholas Hytner and Steven Pimlott (both ex-Manchester Grammar boys), Phyllida Lloyd and James Macdonald. Ian McDiarmid, who was an Exchange associate director before he and Jonathan Kent took over the Almeida, recalls: "The weekly meetings revealed that the directors had a novel way of running a theatre: it was oligarchic rather than democratic. What I liked about the Exchange then - and I'm sure it's true now - was that it was a terrific theatre for Manchester. It produced very high-quality work and over felt in the shadow of London."

Indeed, in 1988, this very newspaper described it as "Britain's other national theatre". However, between then and 1996 it lost its way, the limelight shifting to West Yorkshire Playhouse.

The low point came in 1994. "We had been through recession, a cut in grant, and had done an adventurous season, including *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which lost us a fortune," explains Murray. The response was to produce *Julius Caesar*, *Abigail's Person Singular*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Look Back in Anger* - a conservative selection you would expect from any provincial rep. "That was a panic season and we could have been anybody," Murray concedes. Bolder programming ensued but then came the bomb, which one critic goes so far as to say was "the best thing that could have happened" to the Exchange. It certainly forced a searching examination of artistic priorities.

The results are definitely eye-catching, but so too are the ticket prices: £23 for the best seats on a Saturday, compared to £19 at Birmingham Rep, £17 at West Yorkshire and £15 at Nottingham Playhouse. When I suggest this is pretty steep, Murray provides a characteristically clipped rejoinder: "Not to the Cheshire set." His idea of sound pricing is to keep the bottom down, and push the top up. "There are an awful lot of people in this area who can pay £23 and not think about it," he says. "But a lot of young people used to look at the Exchange and say 'It's not for us'. Well, it is for them, and we have to price things so that students will come."

The trio leaning the company into the next century offer an interesting mix of age, experience and personalities. Straight-talking Murray, now in his mid-fifties, has been with the company for 30 years and has directed more Exchange productions - 48 - than anyone else. Hersov in his early forties and an artistic director for 11 years, provides hubbubbing enthusiasm. The 35-year-old Lloyd, appointed earlier this year, offers you calm, earnest consideration.

This triumvirate system enables each of them to work in rehearsals knowing they can safely leave any administrative cares to the other two. Hersov likens the alternating current of responsibilities to jazz: "You mostly play within the structure, then solo and improvise on your own productions."

This partnership sustains the collaborative tradition on which the company was built, beginning in 1976 in the huge hall that was once the hub of Manchester's cotton trade. Early productions saw Tom Courtenay

to the city centre should not be underestimated - its link with the bombing has been deliberately enhanced by the choice of opening production: the aborted *Hindle Wakes*.

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The softly spoken member of the Inner Magic Circle won't be drawn on the means by which the spirit of Victorian pantomime will arise from the theatre's wings, beyond muttering about a neglected technique known as "the black art". ("Put it this way: it involves using very little light.") This commitment to concealment is central to a benign theory about enchantment (you hesitate to call it a philosophy; he has an Essex-bred down-to-earthness that shudders at any

gravitas.) "If you tell people that you're going to do something in a magical way, you have to carry that through," he says. "I remember being very disappointed as a child, being taken to see *Peter Pan* and seeing the wires."

The determination never to disappoint child or adult shines through in his slick, albeit lo-tech, work. His less trumpeted credits include transforming Simon Russell Beale into Dr Jekyll at the RSC; casting a hal-

lucinogenic spell over the ENB hit *Alice in Wonderland*; making a magician of Bernard Cribbins for *La Grande Magia* at the RNT; and causing the head of the French body artist Orhan to stand disembodied on an ICA table.

It comes as no surprise to learn that "it's not been an easy journey" getting *Angela Carter Cinderella* up and running. Improbable Theatre's guiding stars - Julian Crouch, Phelim McDermott and Lee

Simpson - have risen to prominence over the past three years with a series of shows that take pride in showing you how it's done. "We've always used magic that's declared to the audience," explains Crouch, who met Kieve when the latter consulted his puppetry expertise while working on the stage version of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. "This is the first time where people won't always know what's happening."

As always with Improbable, the risk of disaster is part of the thrill, but there are underlying affinities that should create a coherent whole, even as they complicate the audience's suspension of disbelief. There's an uncynical desire to provoke wonder, a wish to go back to theatre's roots and to revisit the time when stage magicians such as Georges Méliès first flirted with the tricky possibilities afforded by cinema, and a hunger to explore the darker side of myth and magic.

Kieve is flying off after tomorrow's opening night to LA, to start work on a multi-million-dollar Broadway show for Disney. Whether it goes horribly wrong or delightfully right, he looks certain to have a ball.

Angela Carter Cinderella, not previewing, opens tomorrow at the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, London (0181-741 2311)



Main picture: the refurbished Exchange. Above left: the building before the IRA bomb

Andy Fox

True to his word, tickets for the Studio cost £5 or £7. Murray believes that this "found space" in the Exchange's former set workshops will allow the company to nurture "a seedbed of creativity we have never tried to include: plays we can feel relaxed about experimenting with, without the pressure of having to fill 750 seats". Lloyd, whose critical stock is high after well received productions such as *The Illusion*, has

nabbed the first Studio show. So *Special*, by Kevin Hood.

"It's a good play with which to inaugurate a venue we hope will attract younger audiences," he says, "because it focuses on four young characters. The older generation is only heard in a sidelined way."

Hopes that the Studio will have a fresh, distinctive identity, and Lloyd's suggestion that "whenever we think about the Studio we become

a bit lighter on our feet", are backed up by innovative marketing. It is being promoted as a separate venue, rather than an adjunct to the main house, and there are plans to stage free trailer extracts at 5.30pm on weekdays, bringing people in as they leave work.

Levitt Bernstein have provided the directors with a spectacularly refurbished base. Daylight pours in through three huge domes in the

roof, illuminating the colonnades that surround the module; plasma lighting takes over at night. I defy any visitor not to go "Wow!" when they first see the interior. Murray and Co must now ensure that audiences have the same reaction when they leave.

'Hindle Wakes' is in preview, opening next week; 'So Special' previews from tomorrow (0161-333 9833)

The wonderful wizard of Essex

Paul Kieve has had a special effect on British drama - and now he is helping to revive the true magic of the theatre in *Angela Carter Cinderella*. By Dominic Cavendish

THERE IS a moment early on in the National's staging of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* when Nabil Shaban, who plays the arch-fabulist, the Shah of Blah, reaches into his mouth and produces one brightly coloured ribbon after another. Of all the tricks that the illusionist Paul Kieve has brought to productions, this, the oldest in the book, is hardly the most stupendous. But it defines the quality that has directors pounding at his door: a seemingly endless supply of effects, each with the capacity to tell a story like nothing else on earth.

Only an endless supply will do right now. Kieve has been in constant demand ever since he bid farewell to his ocean-going magic double-act, *The Zodiac Brothers*, in 1991, and landed a job at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, helping Ken Hill turn H.G. Wells's *The Invisible Man* into a special-effects romp that beat a path straight to the West End. At 31, he is now unrivalled in a field of his own devising. This season, he's had a hand in the witchcraft in *Into the Woods* at the Donmar, assisted with a grisly dismemberment in *Arabian Nights* at the Young Vic and put body and soul into the keenly anticipated co-production between Improbable Theatre and Neil Bartlett, *Angela Carter Cinderella*, at the Lyric, Hammer-smith.



Paul Kieve, at 31, is an unrivalled master in a field of his own devising

The softly spoken member of the Inner Magic Circle won't be drawn on the means by which the spirit of Victorian pantomime will arise from the theatre's wings, beyond muttering about a neglected technique known as "the black art". ("Put it this way: it involves using very little light.") This commitment to concealment is central to a benign theory about enchantment (you hesitate to call it a philosophy; he has an Essex-bred down-to-earthness that shudders at any

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The future is red, white and blue

CINEMA AUDIENCES devour new writing - the alternative, after all, would be incessant re-makes and re-runs. Yet in theatre, new writing is deemed off-putting at best. Add the word "young" and you have a recipe for patronising attitudes and no box-office. So it is a genuine thrill to discover *Choice*, the Royal Court's Young Writer's Festival with class direction, cracking acting, hot scripts and, in one case, the discovery of the year.

The Crutch, by 23-year-old Ruwanthi de Chickera, is a stern-eyed tale of a woman's journey from desperation on a Sri Lankan street, an example of the festival's wide reach. At the other end of the scale is 20-year-old Ed Hime's tragicomedy *About the Boy* in which father and sons Nev, Trev, and Kev try to sort out their feelings about women: a sort of men behaving chaotically. Hime handles hidden pain with a lovely light touch, his comedy has real zip and he knows exactly when to cut away from a scene. Director Rufus Norris elicits strong performances but the honours are stolen by Lee Ingelby as Trev who can fill entire scenes with virgin adolescent yearning or puncture a moment with blissful comic timing harnessing Hime's terrific line in bathos.

It is automatically assumed (why?) that Asian writers

should deal with race. B22 places this in a wider context by focusing on a different kind of identity in Ranjit Khutan's avowedly sentimental study in nostalgia. The past tunnels through to the present as one of the two lads returns home after years at university.

Sexuality is generally a long way down the list in debates about racial identity and Khutan's tender corrective is timely and sweetly handled. It is unfortunate that the evening's finale handles similar subject matter and where Khutan shows promise, the stunning *Four* by 23-year-old American Christopher Shinn is the work of a seriously gifted playwright. Without a doubt, this is the debut of the year.

Shinn deploys the simplest of means to the greatest possible effect. He knows that what's not said on stage is as important as what is said. With the right structure - and thus tension - silence on stage is pregnant with possibility and words unspoken. Shinn's structure is so astonishingly assured that he can charge up atmospheres and tensions with breathtaking economy. The balance of the play is so

remarkable that although it pivots absolutely around what it is to be American - from going to the movies or driving on the open road to the colour of your skin and your sexual choices - you never feel you are listening to "issues" because everything flows through interlocked, evolving characters drawn with heart-breaking compassion. A nervous young white kid meets up with a married black professor who he has met via the Internet and takes off on a Fourth of July trip. Meanwhile the man's smart-mouthed daughter juggles the demands of an unseen mother and absent father while giving good phone to an uppity white boyfriend.

Shinn's real subject is emotional fragility - a daughter's need for love as she fights to break out of her cocoon of self-confidence, the boy's struggle for emotional and sexual self-acceptance - all of which simply glows in Richard Wilson's mesmerising production which features quite astonishingly detailed performances from a dynamic cast. Shinn's radiant, moving play has yet to be produced in the US. Thank God that British theatre is still able to take risks that can pay off as handsomely as this.

DAVID BENEDICT
In rep to 19 Dec (0171-565 5000)

Salary is not the only fruit

IN THE 1970s classic "Big Yellow Taxi", Joni Mitchell sang: "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." This principle can be applied to numerous things in life, including the undervalued world of employee benefits.

Many people receive valuable benefits as part of their remuneration package, such as a pension, life cover and private medical insurance. It is possible to implement such arrangements privately, but the cost can be prohibitive.

This was brought home to me recently with a series of meetings I had with Rebecca, 33, who has been a nurse with the NHS all her working life. Rebecca was considering accepting a new post in a private nursing home, which offered her a marginally higher salary than her current NHS post, but no additional pension benefits. What would it cost to replace the pension benefits she enjoyed with the NHS?

As an NHS employee she is a member of the NHS Superannuation Scheme, which provides her with an excellent pension scheme as well as death in service life cover. The cost to Rebecca of these benefits is 6 per cent of her gross salary. In reality, the cost of providing these benefits is much higher (estimates put it in the region of 20 per cent of overall pay), with the balance funded by the NHS.

I explained that as the private nursing home in question did not have an occupational pension scheme, she would need to start paying into a personal pension. This is a different type of retirement scheme than she enjoyed with the NHS, and as such, the two are not directly comparable.

The NHS Pension Scheme is a final salary pension scheme, which means the retirement benefits are predictable, based on a formula involving length of service and eventual salary level. With a personal pension, retirement benefits are less certain and will depend on factors such as investment returns over the period to retirement, and annuity rates at the point of retirement.

The amount an individual is permitted to contribute to a personal pension is governed by age and earnings. At 33, Rebecca may contribute up to 17.5 per cent of her new salary of £19,000. There is a difference however, between what is permissible and what is affordable.

I explained to Rebecca that to provide a level of income in retirement similar to what she

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

would enjoy from the NHS, she would need to consider contributing at a higher level of her salary than the 6 per cent required by the NHS scheme.

To establish how much, I undertook some basic calculations. These can be approximated using basic planning assumptions for future levels of inflation, investment return and Rebecca's earnings growth.

Given the length of time to Rebecca's retirement, even small changes in any one of these factors can have a substantial impact on the eventual results. I calculated that Rebecca would need to contribute in the region of £270 per month into a personal pension, with this level of investment escalating each year by 2.5 per cent. This is just below the maximum percentage of salary she is currently permitted to contribute at her age under Inland Revenue restrictions.

When this level of pension funding was set against her prospective new salary level, we concluded that Rebecca would be in a financially worse position than she enjoyed with her current NHS post.

Rebecca contacted me a few weeks later, and explained that she had decided not to pursue the post at the private nursing home, but had subsequently been offered and accepted a higher paid post at another NHS hospital. This meant that as well as an increase in her salary she was able to continue with her membership of the NHS Superannuation Scheme.

The moral of this tale is that if you are contemplating a change in jobs, make sure you analyse the worth of both your existing benefits package, and that offered by your new employer. To focus exclusively on the different salary levels can sometimes be deceptive.

James Bruce is a senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, a firm of independent financial advisers (01206 353388).



An investor can predict how a share will perform in the same way as a punter can assess a horse's chances of success

David Ashdown

Study the formbook

Investing in the market is much like betting on the horses, and the same rules for success apply, says Andrew Couchman

Lovers of the turf will tell you that the biggest single aid to knowing which horse will win the 2.30 at Cheltenham is to study the form book. If you know the horse's trainer, jockey and form, then factor in the going, you have a better chance of winning at least some of the time. The same holds true for determining which investment to pick.

The fund management company is the equivalent of the trainer, and its record in both good times and bad can be a good starting-point. The going is how the markets are performing currently, and with markets in turmoil, a good track record in such times is more important than doing well in a stable rising market.

Volatility relative to other funds can also indicate whether the fund is likely to mirror or to buck trends. This is measured using complex formulae based on the fund's performance relative to sector averages. Past form is useful to study, but, as with the equine equivalent, has to be considered carefully. Some years ago, a small insurer suddenly showed up as having the top per-

forming property fund, albeit at a time when property was doing particularly badly, and everyone wanted to know why. The rather embarrassed insurer had to admit that its fund was too small to hold any property, so it had remained in cash. That explained why it was the only fund not to fall in value. It was the equivalent of the 100/1 outsider Foinavon winning the Grand National in 1967 when most of the more fancied horses fell - and just about as unlikely to recur.

To the skilled investment pundit, however, it is the jockey that can be the decisive factor. Just as having Frankie Dettori in the saddle is no guarantee of success, so a top fund manager need not necessarily mean a winning fund, but the ability to think out the right strategy, pick the appropriate stocks and adjust over time can lead to winning long-term performance. In today's markets, good investment managers have the opportunity to make or break their reputations.

The final factor to consider is the fund's handicap. The extra weight that it may carry is not measured in pounds, but in the fund's charges. Whereas tracker funds that require little day-to-day management may have very low charges, actively managed funds charge more. Unless the fund can consistently beat a tracker, though, such a "handicap" is not worth paying.

So how can the average investor weigh up all these factors and place the right money on the right horses? According to David Burren, of a Cheltenham-based firm of independent financial advisers, Warwick Butchart Associates, there are two routes to take. The simplest is to let an investment specialist do it for you. He warns, though, that a fund manager will sometimes change his or her investment strategy, which can call into question how well their fund will do in the future. And when a manager moves to another company, sometimes that can revitalise a flagging fund, but not

always. Mr Burren says: "The danger comes when the manager's new role is different from their old one. Just because someone is good at managing one type of fund does not mean that they will be as successful at managing another."

Most fund management companies now actively court leading IFAs, explaining through seminars, newsletters and one-to-one meetings their current investment thinking and justifying their investment decisions. At times of great market turbulence, such an inside track can be invaluable.

The alternative is to study the form yourself. Leading companies advertise in *The Independent*, especially if their fund performance is good, and prices of individual funds can be tracked daily. Details of funds are set out in managers' key features documents, while many produce regular investment updates, although these are usually targeted at advisers and may not be available to individual investors.

The Internet is also fast becoming a source of information. Earlier this year, Autif (the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds) launched a website; others to look at include Interactive Investor, Micropal, Reuters and Trustnet, and many fund management groups have their own sites.

Betting on the horses may have the advantage of immediacy and the thrill of the race to keep punters happy. Its techniques, though, can be just as successful in choosing which unit or investment trust, OEIC, PEP, life or pension fund to invest in for the long term, provided that, like the hardened gambler, you do your homework first.

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It's time to make leaseholders feel they're kings of the castle

Landlords simply have too much power over their tenants. By Karen Woolfson

LEASEHOLDERS COULD be given the right to take over the management of their block of flats without having to prove that the landlord was in any way at fault, according to a new government consultation document. The Government's initiative comes as leaseholders campaign for changes to legislation, which many claim allows landlords to exploit their tenants.

Among the proposals outlined in the consultation document is a relaxation of restrictions to the right of flat owners collectively to buy their freehold. At present, for buildings to qualify for enfranchisement, no more than 10 per cent of floor space must be non-residential. This disqualifies smaller blocks, where the ground floor may be laid out as shops. The Government proposes to lift this to 25 per cent.

It is also proposed that the "residence test" - whereby at least half the enfranchisement group must have occupied their flats as principal dwellings in the 12 months before the date when the initial notice is given - simply be applied from the date when that initial notice is given.

Alternatively, would-be enfranchisees will be required only to have been living in their flat for a period totalling 18 months out of five years, rather than three years in the last 10. The proportion of "qualifying

tenants who can call for collective enfranchisement could also be dropped from two-thirds to a half.

Other proposals include: ■ regulating the activities of property managers, including the selection of contractors, and improving the security of tenants' funds; ■ controls to ensure landlords provide effective insurance cover; stamping out the practice of "placing" insurance to maximise commissions; ■ the Lord Chancellor's Department to consult on the introduction of a new type of tenure for flats, called "commonhold", which would give flat owners the individual ownership of the property on which their home stands;

■ options to cut down on the arguments over the price of buying a freehold, avoiding the need for expensive professional advice; ■ a "no fault" right for leaseholders to take over management of a block without buying the freehold. To qualify, the non-domestic proportion might be limited to 10 per cent, rather than the 25 per cent proposed for enfranchisement.

Terence Michael, spokesman for the Flatowners Network, says: "I welcome the direction the Government is moving in, but the document wastes time on technicalities, it is turgid to read and full of uncertainties. I want a govern-

ment that takes a strong lead and makes a powerful stand on crucial issues. The consultation paper suggests they are sitting on the fence."

However, Mr Michael says the primary focus should be on "regulating the new breed of leasehold landlord managers" whether or not they have collectively bought their freehold (known as "enfranchisement") or not. Mr Michael also points out that the Government's emphasis on simplifying the enfranchisement process must go hand in hand with regulating what happens after this takes place, otherwise it is likely to face a huge backlash in the future. "It's very short-sighted. People with a house that enfranchises are OK, but flat-owners who enfranchise face a whole range of risks they were exposed to with their former nightmare landlord, such as inflated service charges. Leasehold landlord managers, and the property company they run, must be regulated."

Peter Haler, head of the Leasehold Advisory Service, says: "I'm pleased with the document, although I had hoped for something more solid."

Mr Haler also believes leasehold managers must be subject to strict regulations, whether or not the property has been enfranchised. He says leaseholders must be legally obliged to follow a stan-

dard structure, which includes setting up a company designed specifically for this purpose. He adds: "The company that leaseholders set up to run the block must give each individual the same rights to get redress and follow strict procedures for holding annual general meetings and handling disputes, for example. "It would ensure complete transparency of all expenditures and everything else. The more you can regulate and write down, the fewer problems there will be, because everyone will know where they stand and what their money is being spent on."

In order to prevent new leasehold managers from stepping into the shoes of former landlords, leasehold groups and Mr Haler call for criminal prosecutions, fines and the removal of directors of self-managed companies if they fail to manage according to the rules. Tight regulation should apply in the same way to managing agents and anyone else considered to be assuming the role of a manager.

"I would like to see a regulator and ombudsman rolled into one," says Mr Haler.

The Government could take the Financial Services Act as an example for legislation covering leases. This forced all independent financial advisers to apply and pay for a licence in order to ply their trade,

which covers selling investment products. Property is usually the biggest investment a person makes in a lifetime, yet the management of a leaseholder's biggest asset is still not regulated, which is an unparalleled anomaly in British law. This country's two million leaseholders, whose property is worth many billions of pounds, need to be given the protection they deserve, and only an official regulator can provide this. Codes of conduct in this industry only scratch the surface, and those that exist are often ineffective.

Decisive, clear-cut, effective rules that are open to as little interpretation as possible need to be firmly enshrined into law. Campaigners argue that to aid clarity words such as "reasonableness" and "due regard" should be eradicated from every description in the regulations.

Leaseholders are asking the Government to sharpen its focus, taking effective action rather than creating complexities to hide behind, to prevent further abuses of the system a few years down the line.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments for her column. Write to: Homebattles, c/o Nic Cicuttii, Personal Finance Section, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply.

It's out with the old...

Private homes might be able to offer care for the elderly more cheaply than councils. But is it the best way forward? By Paul Gosling

ISLINGTON'S PENNEFATHER residential home is about to be demolished. It will be replaced by residential care housing, built to a higher standard and run by the Notting Hill Housing Group instead of Islington Borough Council. A similar transformation is happening across much of the country.

For years residential care and nursing homes have been run by local authorities as Cinderella services, badly managed, often employing poorly qualified staff, with buildings falling into disrepair. Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, earlier this week moved to counter this situation with plans for national standards and tough inspection processes.

Because the councils and central government have under-funded the service, the homes have often had empty beds, while nearby hospitals suffered bed-blocking, full of patients who would be more suitably cared for in nursing homes.

Change is being brought about through the often reluctant acceptance by councils that residential care can be achieved more cost-effectively by outside bodies. Recent months have seen a rash of transfers. In April, Surrey County Council announced that it had signed the biggest-ever social services Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deal, when it agreed to hand over 17 care homes to Anchor Trust, one of the country's largest housing associations, specialising in working with elderly and disabled residents. About 840 residents have been transferred, along with 700 council staff. Anchor has pledged to take on a further 140 care staff.

Refurbishing and rebuilding the homes is costing Anchor about £29m. The purchase has been funded from Anchor's reserves, and any

income generated in the future - Surrey is guaranteeing to purchase 80 per cent of beds - will go towards further investment.

Another radical Conservative-controlled council, Westminster, is also well advanced with a major PFI residential homes scheme. The Delaware Resource Centre in Paddington is being demolished, to be replaced by a new residential care and nursing home.

Westminster is delighted with the arrangement. "The old home was a typical Fifties-built institution," said Terry Cotter, the borough's head of social services contracting. "It did not reach [current] registration standards. We wanted a brand new, state-of-the-art home in its place."

"We only have two nursing homes [in the borough] and we have a lot of people who need nursing care. So we had to place people out of the borough, which has not been popular with residents or with [council] members. Now we will have local nursing home care."

Westminster's partner is the private contractor Haven Healthcare. Many other councils, such as Islington and Surrey, are preferring to contract with established housing associations. English Churches, Sanctuary and John Grooms - which is acting as adviser to Notting Hill on the Pennefather development - are all keen to take on residential care transfers from local authorities.

"There are a number of further deals in the pipeline," said Roger Mortimer, social services finance policy officer of the Local Government Association. "A number of authorities are actively preparing schemes. Many authorities feel that if they can't own their own residential homes they would prefer to see them in the not-for-profit sector."



Increasing numbers of elderly people are living in modern, purpose-built homes

Dylan Bryden

Stephen Duckworth, a policy officer with the National Housing Federation, which represents housing associations, agreed. "For housing associations with a strong interest in the elderly end of the housing spectrum it is a natural extension of their business development. Given that the PFI model is being adopted by local authorities it is natural for registered social landlords to be the partners. Many councils would prefer them to the private sector."

Mr Duckworth added that housing associations are also in a good position to raise finance in the market.

Although they are competing against other PFI proposals such as school redevelopments, their guaranteed income streams make them attractive borrowers.

Nick Salisbury, head of the PFI unit at Barclays Bank, agreed. "Specialist housing groups are bidding for residential homes," he said. "Local authorities realise that they can't afford to bring their residential homes up to standard, and housing associations are a natural partner for them."

But the private sector is also in a strong position to take advantage of the market, Mr Salisbury added.

Investors were now much more willing to purchase the expensive fixed assets under a sale-and-leaseback arrangement, leaving small businesses able to run their own residential and nursing homes.

This view was endorsed by Richard Ellert, chief executive of Nursing Home Properties, a leading company in the sector.

"The total number of beds has fallen by 2.5 per cent since its peak two years ago, but occupancy rates are much higher in purpose-built homes," he said. "There is a two-bed market with new homes replacing old homes. There are 7,000 beds a

year being built, and 15,000 a year being closed."

Mr Ellert added that development of new nursing and residential homes would not solve the NHS's bed-blocking crisis. Only amalgamating NHS and social services' budgets for care for the elderly would solve that problem, he argued. Loud and repeated noises from Frank Dobson make it clear that releasing elderly patients from hospitals and transferring them into residential and nursing care is a priority.

If anyone can ease the log-jam, surely it is the man with a reputation as a political bruiser.

IN BRIEF

THE GOVERNMENT has broadly accepted the accountancy profession's proposals for improving regulation. Publishing a consultation document last Monday, Ian McCartney, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, said he believed that the creation of a framework based on an independent foundation could deliver public confidence. While he favoured a non-legislative approach for the time being, he warned that the structure would allow for the imposition of a statute-based system if it did not work.

HIGH-TECHNOLOGY and other knowledge-based companies are risking the millions of pounds invested in their research and development programmes through not paying sufficient attention to their intellectual property rights, according to research published by Taylor Joynson Garrett, the City law firm. The survey, "All in the Mind: Investing in Technology and Life Sciences", produced in conjunction with London Business School, found that only just over half of companies regularly reminded employees not to disclose details of their work until intellectual property issues had been safeguarded, and that more than a third acknowledged that they did not have a complete set of contractual documentation to protect these assets.

THE AUDITING Practices Board has published a consultation paper to examine the "complex issues" surrounding auditors' roles in reporting on fraud. It reflects an awareness of the need to balance the consequences of increased regulation with encouraging an environment of commercial success.

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Dressing to impress

What to wear to work is a real dilemma in the Nineties. Should you be smart? Casual? Both? Many companies are unclear, but one thing is certain – it pays to get it right. By Kate Hilpern

You really do appear to be what you wear, or so recent research seems to imply. Apparently, 90 per cent of our opinion of a person is formed within the first 20 to 30 seconds of first meeting them. In the world of work, the implications of such snap judgements are frightening.

But dressing with the intention of impressing the boss, colleague or client, is no longer a simple matter of donning a smart suit and a confident air. The sheer variety of dress codes found in Nineties workplaces has made the choice of workwear a thoroughly perplexing issue. Traditional images are being turned on their heads, as companies such as publishing houses, once famed for espousing the casual, even dowdy look, now prefer a more corporate image, whilst conservative organisations, such as banks, are opting for a more relaxed look.

The question as to which dress code to adopt is made all the more confusing by conflicting reports as to which style wins out. Last month's survey by Adecco, the largest recruitment company in the world, found that 75 per cent of offices now operate a "smart" dress code, yet other studies, carried out by individual image consultants, found just the opposite. Given such confusion, how can one hope to get a clear picture of what outfits are required in today's workplace?

Diana Mather, author of *Image Works for Women*, outlines some of the wardrobe planning options available to a new recruit. "If you're lucky," she says, "your employers may recognise such difficulties and offer you the services of their very own image consultant. But if an image consultant isn't available, then the first rule is to avoid basing your working wardrobe on your impressions of the companies' overall image. Media-based jobs, for example, are often assumed to carry a casual dress code. However, the reality is that many staff in this field are actually required to dress fairly formally because of the amount of contact they have with the public."

For some office workers, the contradictions posed by conflicting dress codes are almost impossible to resolve. Temps have a particularly hard time of it, maintains Sarah Eldoort of Office Angels. "They suffer a double-edged sword because they are not only expected to project the image of the company but also that of their agency. You might, for instance, belong to a temping agency which stipulates no trousers, only to discover that they've given you an assignment within a company where no one is out of jeans." Fiona Dobson, manager of the recruitment agency, Working Wonders, agrees. "Temps need to be insistent that their agencies discuss with them the details of each and every organisation's dress codes, as well as build-



The dress code for work used to be so simple – smart and formal

ing up a flexible wardrobe." But this does not mean you have to spend all your wages on clothes – you just have to go for more than one style.

And if you thought organisations such as Color Me Beautiful exist only to tell affluent women whether they best suit autumnal colours, or the more coral look, think again, says Mary Spillane, Color Me Beautiful's director. "There's a rapid rise in people at PA level who want practical, hard advice because British people seem particularly unsure about how to dress in the workplace. They can slob down and dress up pretty well, but the middle ground is a grey area. They don't seem to be aware of the basic rule that the more skin you show, the less authority you have."

According to Judi James, author of *Bodytalk* and adviser to the Industrial Society, one of the most confusing pieces of jargon relating to Nineties dress codes is the term "smart-casual". "More people ask me for advice about smart-casual

than they ever have about formal wear. I recently trained a man who truly thought it meant being both at once, so he wore a formal waistcoat and trousers with a Grateful Dead T-shirt underneath," says James. Charlotte Ducat, a City-based PA, also dislikes the term. "There's a long list on our company notice board stipulating what smart-casual excludes, such as sneakers, T-shirts, jeans, very short skirts or sloppy-looking trousers. The result is that casual is in some ways more restrictive than a basic suit."

Meanwhile, Rob Briner, organisational psychologist at Birkbeck College in London, points to another occupational hazard of "dressing down" versus suit or uniform. "When a company goes casual, it becomes clear who has the money to spend on an impressive wardrobe, and who doesn't."

According to Judi James, these discrepancies often hit women hardest. "Men are much more tribal than

women in business-wear. So while men can copy their colleagues by swapping their shoes for loafers but keeping the tie, the women are totally in the dark. Consequently, it's easy for them to dress down too much, thereby giving the appearance of a lower status than they had intended." This is extremely prevalent in companies which have "dress-down Fridays". "In those cases, people don't even have time to get used to what others are wearing. They're just thrown in at the deep end at the end of every week, and the fact is that you never know who you are going to meet, even on a Friday." She advises that secretarial staff would do well to ask personnel for guidelines on clothing and to be wary of letting a professional image disappear altogether.

No wonder uniforms are more popular than ever. In fact, Barclays Bank has gone one step further, offering their staff a range of fashionable "corporate wear".

Spokesperson Yasmine Choudhury claims that Barclays has successfully addressed the two down-sides to uniforms. "Uniforms can result in the employee feeling anonymous, and they can also be unflattering," Choudhury explains. "But since we began to offer a wide variety of trousers, skirts, dresses and shirts in a range of different materials, designed by Jeff Banks, we've overcome these problems." The result is that even the staff who aren't required to wear the "corporate wear" are opting to do so. "It makes getting up in the morning far less stressful," agrees secretary Rachel Smith.

But for those of us left struggling to understand a new dress code, Judi James offers one fail-safe golden rule. "When in doubt, opt for over-dressing rather than under-dressing because looking smart can't do you any harm. In the meantime, let's just hope that employers start realising what a confusing message they are sending out."

Permission to tell jokes, sir?

IT'S 7.30. Beardman approaches the bar and I start grinding my teeth. "Evening, guv," says Mike, and, as usual, receives no response. Mike grins and buries his nose in his lager. Beardman arrives.

"Hello," I say. "What can I get you?" I've tried every way I can think of to circumvent his next sentence but, as it's probably the only thing he says to anyone all day, or maybe because it takes such an effort of will to speak to a relative stranger like me in the first place, nothing is going to stop him getting the full sentence out. I've tried "Hi there, the usual?" and even "Hello, pint of lager and lime and a slimline bitter lemon, is it?" but all I've had in return is "That's right. A point of lager and lime and a zzzlimlone bitter lemon, please." It's enough to drive a girl to distraction.

I've been suffering a bit from literalness all week. Or perhaps it's just that double-shift tiredness has changed my delivery, so that people can't tell I'm joking.

In the City, Graham, who is the head of unit in the small merchant bank where I'm working at the moment, suffers both a humour bypass and a bit of an empire-building complex. That, I think, is why he won't use his dictating machine, but requires me to come in and sit by his desk with a pad on my knee pretending to take dictation. On Thursday, I was spreadsheeting for Malcolm, who had to get some proposal about a potential plastics investment in by lunch time, when Graham rang. "Are you busy?" "Very," I said. "I'm just doing my nails." "Oh," he said. "Can you come in? I've got some letters." "Sure," I said. "I'll be through in 10 minutes. I've just got something urgent to finish up."

Eight minutes later, I arrived at his desk with my Berol Speedwrite and my Niceday spiral-bound to find him sitting with his fingers clasped over a pursed mouth, specs glittering. "Hello," I said, fushing a chair from another desk and settling on it. Waited, pen poised expectantly. Started scribbling as he started talking, stopped quite quickly as I realised that he was addressing me rather than a client. "How are your nails?" he said. Thinking that we were still sharing my rather feeble joke, I waved my gnawed stubs at him and said "Lovely, aren't they?"

Graham stood up. Started pacing up and down. His colleagues, my other bosses,



THE TEMP

dropped their pens, raised their heads from their knuckles, put their phone receivers to their chests and started watching. "I don't expect," he said, his voice rising a decibel with each syllable. "To ask for your attention only to be told that you're doing your manicure on the firm's time. You are paid to work and I WILL NOT HAVE IT!"

I dropped my pen, scrambled around to retrieve it and stuttered "But Graham, I was – NO EXCUSES!" shouted Graham, and the people behind the glass screen with the map of the world on the wall came out to look. "If you want to spend your time doing beauty treatments, train as a beautician." "Graham, I was joking." "Joking?" His head snapped back like a velociraptor's and he eyed me sideways. "Yes." "How joking?" "You asked me if I was busy and instead of saying that I was I told you I was doing my nails. It was only a joke."

He sat down. "How is that funny?" "Um, well it wasn't a very good joke. It was just one of those off-the-cuff things you say." And instantly regret, I thought. "Well," said Graham. "I don't call that much of a joke myself. I'd be grateful if you'd confine your jokes to outside office hours in future. Now. Are you ready to take some dictation?" "No," I started, then changed my mind. "Of course I am," I said meekly. "Sorry."

Beardman begins his sentence with a couple of throat-clearings and some "arr-ur" noises. I catch Mike's eye and can't resist a small tease. "Don't tell me," I say. "It's a Kahlua and green chutney and a Baileys chaser, isn't it?"

Beardman stops, looks suspiciously at me, clears his throat again and says "No. A point of lager and lime and a zzzlimlone bitter lemon, please." Then he makes a tutting noise, turns to Mike and says "I don't know. You'd have thought I'd have been coming here long enough for 'er to at least know thaad."

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Call Sarah Peacock for more information Now on 0171 512 0220.

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IS FASHION YOUR PASSION?

DIRECTOR'S PA/SEC £20,000

A tough cookie with style, will enjoy this exciting, demanding role, assisting young, charismatic director, at this well known fashion group. She has a high energy level, and to keep up to speed, you must be confident, capable, well organised, diplomatic, a good communicator, and possess excellent secretarial skills.

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2nd Floor, Palladium House

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Website: www.sharon-davis.co.uk

E-mail: info@sharon-davis.co.uk

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Clapham. Must be computer literate Word/Windows 95/98. To start immediately.

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Please write to: Panel 4 C, 64 James St.

London W1M 5EN

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London WC2X 8JD

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Contact Louise Mawson on 0171 278 5157

or send CV to: Britanna House, 4-24 Britanna St.

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Immediate start. Please call Barbara Lindo on: 0171 436 1211 Fax: 0171 436 9099 NO AGENCIES PLEASE

To advertise in this section please call Zara White on 0171 323 4492.

THEATRE
WEST END

► **LIES MISERABLES** Musical dramatization of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 0909) ▶ Ploc. C. Mon-Sat. 7.30pm. [5/7] 2.30p. £7-£35. 195s. mins.

► **MISS SAIGON** Musical which sets the Madam Butterfly tragedy in Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Dr. Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ▶ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat. 7.45pm. [4/7] 7pm. £5.75-£21. 165s. mins.

► **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunit. St. Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836144) ▶ Leic. Sq. Mon-Sat. 8pm. 2.45pm. [7] 5pm. £2-£23. 135s. mins.

► **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre market, SW1 (0171-494 5400. 344 4444) ▶ Ploc. Ctr. Mon-Sat. 7.45pm. [4/7] 7pm. £10-£35. 1 mins.

► **PHEDRE** Diane Riggs stars in 'The English' new translation of Racine's tragedy. Albany St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730 x 867 111) ▶ Leic. Sq. 2. 7.30, 9. 12. 7.30pm. £5-£29.50. 100 mins.

► **RENT** Musical inspired by *La Bamba* and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) ▶ Hibernia/Vict Ctr. Mon-Sat. 7.30pm. £10-£25. 100 mins.

ABC (0181-989 3463) @ South
Woodford Antz 2.15pm, 5.30pm

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
 ● **OLIVIER:** Antony and Cleopatra. The great Shakespearean star as the sexually self-destructive lover. 2 & 3 Dec 7pm. 230 min

● **LYTELTON:** The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmistress in this new adaptation of the classic novel on film. 2 Dec 7pm, 3 Dec 7.30pm. ends 12 Dec. 155 mins.

● **COTTESLOE:** Copenhagen. New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. 17pm, 18.30pm, 27 Jan. 145 min

● **OLIVIER & LYTELTON:** E2-E27. Cottesloe: E12-E19. Days from 10 Dec 1989. 011 417 1452 3000

ROYAL WATERLOO

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
 ● **THE BARBICAN:** The Merchant of Venice. RSC production of Shakespeare's drama about love and money. Tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins

● **THE PIT:** Shadows. Riders to the Sea & The Shadow of the Glen. A Puritany Triple bill of dramas by Yeats and J.M. Synge. Tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins

● **BARBICAN CENTRE:** The Picnic at Hamlet. E2-E26. The Pic. 11-11.85pm. 8891. 180 mins

● **BARBICAN MOVER:** Moorish Nights. 180 mins

● **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER:** 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adrian Garcia. London. Palladium. 10.15pm. WI 011 711 1111

● **Oxford Circ.** Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [417] 2.30pm, E10-E32.50

● **STARSIGHT.** E2-E26. E26

er (15) 6.45pm My Name is Joe
15] 9pm

roller music! Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/£. Victoria. Mon-Sat. 7.45pm. [3/7] 3pm. £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

I THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be Linda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn comedy. Duchess Theatre, Shaftesbury Road, W1 (0171-494 5075/tel. 344 4444) BR/£. Victoria. Mon-Sat. 7.45pm. [5/7] 7pm. £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

A TRUDE Depiction of a dyslexic female friend of Richard Oakes. Theatrical Productions, 100, The Royal Court Upstairs (at the Royal Court), West Street, WC (0171-565 5000) £. Leic. Sq. 2, 7. 12 Dec. 7.15pm, 10p-£10. All mon seats £5, double bill (7.15pm + 10.15pm) £15. 90 mins. on same night. £7.50-£15.

THE WHER CON MORCHEROO! Drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's St. Martin's Lane, WC (0171-565 5000) £. Leic. Sq./Charing. K. Mon-Sat. 7.30pm. (4/17) 3.30pm. £5-£25. 90 mins.

I WEST SIDE STORY New production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W (0171-447 5400) £. Leic. Sq./Tort. Rd. Mon-Sat. 7.45pm. [5/7] 3pm. £15-£35. 160 mins.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WINDING Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Ald

oldmine (18) 8.15pm

BOOKS *£36 (24/7)* • Holborn
 Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sun 11-12.30pm,
 £30.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK
 Susan Hill's gripping ghost story. For-
 tunately, the ghost is not real.
 22/23/24/26/28/34 4444 • Covent Gar-
 den/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, 13-
 3pm, 7-10pm. Mon-Sat £23.50,
 110 mins.

THEATRE
 Beyond The West End

ALMEIDA THEATRE *The Storm*
 Frank McCann's new version of
 Henrik Ibsen's 1899 play.
 7.30pm, Mon-Sat 3pm, ends 19
 Dec. £6.50-19.50. Almeida Street,
 N1 0J1 0171-359 4404 • Angel/High-
 bury & Islington.

CANAL CAFE THEATRE *Silent*
 Niall Steven Berkoff's tale of Curi-
 cul's loneliness recovers its stage pre-
 sence.
 6.50, 10.15, 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.15,
 8.15, 10.15 • Bridge House Pub, De-
 laware Terrace, W2 1J1 0171-2899-
 6054 • Royal Oak/Warwick Avenue.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE *Little*
 Malcolm and His Struggle Against
 The Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars
 as the revolutionary activist in David
 Hailwell's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm,
 Sun-Sat £20.00, 110 mins.
 21/22/23/24/26/28/34 4444 • Hamp-
 stead, 611, 65, Avenue Road, NW3
 0171-722 9301 • Swiss Cottage.

LYRIC STUDIO *Fourteen Songs*,
 The Weddings and a Funeral Stage
 version of a play by Caryl Churchill.
 21/22/23/24/26/28/34 4444 • Lyric
 Studio, 100, Tottenham Court Road,
 W1P 0LP 0171-476 9600 • Tottenham
 Court Road.

5); Out of Sight (15); Ronin (15);
 Rush Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG)

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

BASINGSTOKE
HAYMARKET THEATRE Lord of the Flies Stage version of William Golding's classic tale of schoolboys living on a deserted island. 2.5 Dec, 7.45pm, mat today 1.30pm. £9.50-£15.50, concs available. Wote Street 101256-465566

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EXHIBITION

EXHIBITIONS

BATH
HOLBURN MUSEUM & CRAFTS STUDY CENTRE *May*
Weaver: Peter Collingwood *May*
exhibition exploring Collingwood's
textile work. Mon-Sat 11-5
5pm, Sun 2.30pm-5.30pm, ends
Dec. £3.50, OAP £3, US&O 40p, incl
child £1.50, family £7 to museum
Great Fulkeley Street (01223
463362)

BRIGHTON
FABRICA HALO: Simon Big
installation projecting digital
native tusk. Mon-Sat 11-5
5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 13
free, Duke Street (01273-778484)

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE *And*
Farm: Ralph Steadman *Com*
modern drawings illustrating *Or*
novel. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, en
Dec, free. University of Sus
Lewes Road (01273-685861)

CAMBRIDGE
FITZ WILLIAM MUSEUM *F*
Polidoro to Salvatore Rosa *Dis*
collection of the forming the last
Italian Baroque, ends 23
British Watercolours from
Oppe Collection including work
Turner and Constable, ends 24
the history of Three Whiskies
in-Latour and Alphonse Legros
amining the common stylistic gra
of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10
5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 24
the history of Three Whiskies
(01223-337290)

LONDON
BARBICAN ART GALLERY Na

LONDON
BARBICAN ART GALLERY National
 Nations: Journeys in America
 10am-5pm, Thur-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun
 12pm-5pm, 12pm-5pm, Wed 10am-
 7.45pm, Sun 12pm-6.45pm, ex. Fri,
 concs £4.50, 50p, 15p, 7.5p (Fri,
 concs £4.50, 50p, 15p, 7.5p) (01-
 738 4141) @ Barbican.

ICA GALLERY The Young 5
 Prey Sculpture, collage, painting
 and cut outs by 11 young artists, M
 Sun 12noon-7.30pm, ends 10.15
 £1.50, concs £1, Sat-Sun 10am-
 concs £1.50, The Mall, SW1 (01-
 930 3647) @ Charing Cross.

NATIONAL GALLERY Mirror Images
 Jonathan Miller On Reflecting
 Mirrors and reflections in art
 10am-5pm, 10am-5pm, 10am-5pm,
 13 Dec, £5.50, concs £3.50, 50p,
 audio guide.
 Luca Signorelli in British Collections
 Drawings and paintings by the artist
 10am-5pm, Thur-Sat 10am-6pm,
 13 Dec, £5.50, concs £3.50, 50p,
 ends 31 Jan, free, Trafalgar Square
 WC2 (01-739 3321) @ Charing
 Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
 Critical Mass: Antony Gormley
 Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-
 day day, ends 16 Dec, free.
 Picasso: Painter and Sculptor
 The artist's work in the 20th century
 artist, ends Dec. 17, OAP/£4.50, £6, 8-11
 Dec 12-18 £22, £20, £6, NUS

Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1941
Mon-Thurs Sat & Sun 10am-6pm

Elvira Salomon Rowen panel
from the 1940s and 1950s
Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm,
10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan, £5,
10am/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child
£2.50, 50p child 8-11 £1. Burlington
Galleries, 100 Tottenham Court Rd,
W1P 0LP (0171-373 8000) • Green Park

TATE GALLERY In Celebration
of the 20th Century
Paintings, sculpture, and
photography by Camille
Pissarro, 28 Feb, free

Turner Prize 1998 Work by
Gill, Janis, De Monchaux, Tice
Dall, and Sam Thompson, ends
Jan, £1.50

John Singer Sargent Comprehensive
exhibition devoted to the painter
and the 20th-century artist, ends
17 Jan, £5, conc £2.50

Art Now 16: Something is Missing
- Jean-Marie Bustamante
installation exploring international
contemporary art, ends 17 Jan,
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm,
Sun, free, Millennium Open 1 (0171-
8000) • Picnic

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM
Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator
life and work explored in 300
drawings and prints, ends 10 Jan

Grinning Gibbons and the Art
of the 20th-century
woodworker, ends 24 Jan

Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramsay
Precious metal jewellery, ends
Feb

Elsewhere - Photographs From
Africa and Asia: Henry
Cartier-Bresson, ends 24 Jan,
subject by the 90-year-old photo-
grapher, Mon 12noon-5.45pm

E5, concs E3, unde
18s/UB40/mems/disabled/NUS/a
res 4 32m 5m 5m 5m 5m 5m

ST MES
18s/UB40, cems E3, unde
118s/UB40, cems disabed/NUS/4
ter 4.30pm free. Cromwell Road
SW7 (0171-938 8441) ☎ South
Kensington.

ST MES
Roots: Eric Cameron Layers of pain
surrounding organic objects
Displays 1998-9: Partnership
and Practice Works from the se
cond half of the century.

ST MES
Quot Montserrat: Veronica Ryan
Marble sculpture linking SI Ives
with Montserrat in the West India
Mon-St 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5
pm, ends 11 Apr. E3, 50, cones E3
Portsmouth Beach (01736-796226)

EVENTS

EVENTS

BATH
CHRISTMAS AT CLAVERTON See how American Puritans to New Orleans du Civil War. American Musicians Claverton Manor. 4605033. Tue-Sun 11pm-4pm

LONDON
THE GREAT CHALLENGE International political cartoon competition, in aid of Amnesty International. Index on Censorship. Cartoon Art Trust. The Galleries. Tower House. 1701. Ground floor. Street SE1 1QJ. 192-0100. Waterloo. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm. ends 23 Dec. 80p. (donations comd.)

SWINDON
COUNTRY HOUSE CHRISTMAS comes to use a Victorian style. The main with the State Rooms of greenery gathered from the Parliament House Lydard County. (01793-770401) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Sat 10am-6pm. Sun 4pm, ends 31 Dec. 80p. children

MUSIC

POP

BOURNEMOUTH
HANK MARVIN Tour for the

Shadows, Bournemouth International Centre Exeter Road (t 456456), Taxis 7 7

SHADOWS. Bournemouth Road, The National Centre Easter Road (01752) 730 120. Tonight 7.30pm. £10.50-£14.50.

KING'S LYNN LEVELLERS, THE CROCKET counter-culture driving to heroes, playing the hits on the road. The Crocket Exchange, 100 Market Street, Luton (01553 764864) 7.30pm. £12.

LONDON

HEFNER, THE YUMMY FURY unusual mix, with faecotic appeal and Scottish charm. The Garage Highway Centre (0171-607 1818) BR/6. Hips & Islington. Tonight 8pm. £4.

ONE LADY OWNER, DARK The new Creativo signings told car-obsessed rock'n'roll. Water Theatre Gary's Inn Road (0181-885 6488) @ King's 8.30pm. £5. concs in

PORTSMOUTH

TOM JONES The charismatic man still wows the ladies, whipping easily into a more contem groove for his new paymaster. The Guildhall Guildhall Square 101705-824355 7.30pm. £20.50-£25.50.

DRUGSTORE, ANNIE CHRISTIE Slack pop and blues through the unique trio, blending Br chanteuse Isabel's scorching wit and sincerity. Wedge Rooms Albert Road, Southsea (01705 524355) 7.30pm. £10-£12.

phone for prices.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, Fo

BRIGHTON
JULIAN ARGUELLES O
Saxist-composer leads top Big
lemporary ethnic piece, S
Bentley Theatre Grand P
(01273-709709) Tonight 8pm
costs £7.50.

CARDIFF
ROY HARPER Cunt English
writer, with over 30 albums an
lous collaborations to his c
touring a crew album, the
society, The Trousers Castle S
(01222-215481) Tonight 8pm

LONDON
ROY AYERS' UBIQUITY
maestro much loved by the ac
Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0
916 5060) @ Camden Town, T
8.30pm, £15, ad £12.50.

MARTIN TAYLOR/BIRELLI
GRENE Virtuoso guitarist pl
Djangeosque vein. Pizzas ex
Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0
439 87722) @ Tottenham R
Road, Tonight 9pm, £20.

SPRIT OF THE TRADITION U
folk supergroup comprising M
Prior, Kathryn Tickell, Jacque
Shee and John Renbourn. O
Elizabeth Hall South Bank C
SE1 (0171-950.6262) Music

JOHN WILSON STRINGS/SA
MOUSE/SA

JOHN WILSON STRINGS/SA
MOULE Stylish vocals accompa-
nyed by smooth strings. **Pizza** on the
Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-
5273) @ Hyde Park Corner. To
9.15pm & 11.15pm. £18, adv.

JAN GARBAREK GROUP Ethio-
Norwegian sax legend per-
forms with his ECM CD Rites. Royal
Hall South Bank Sides SE1 (0
960 4242) BR/ Waterloo. To
7.30pm. £10-£26.

YEOWL
BBC BIG BAND Barry For-
band of swing stalwarts. Octo-
Theatre Hordford (01935-422-
Tonight 7.30pm. £12.50.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles
5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce
8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 10.30 John Peel 12.00 Gilles Peterson
2.00 Chris Warren 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce
12.00 John Inverdale 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker
7.00 Nick Barradough 8.00 Mike Harding 9.00 The Andy Peebles Show 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums 10.30 Richard Allinson
11.45 Following My Star 12.00 Lynn Parsons 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air
9.00 Masterworks
10.30 Artist of the Week
11.00 Sound Stories
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (R)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras
4.00 Choral Evensong
5.00 In Tune
7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Kenneth Montgomery, Therese Feighan (mezzo), Hugh Timney (piano), Fella El Amour (soprano); Nights in the Gardens of Spain; Suite: Homages; The Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos 1 and 2
9.05 Postscript: Five monologues about women: 3: 'Philomena'. Played by Val Lilley. Away from her homeland, Philomena realises that life has passed her by
9.35 Robert Woodley, Harpsichord recital: Froberger: Toccata No 3 in G; Suite No 14 in G minor; Bach: Partita No 5 in G, BWV829 (R)
10.00 Ensemble Haydn dedicated most of his published works to titled and influential patrons. Beethoven followed his example, despite his forward-looking ideals, but Mozart was largely interested in currying favour. In the first of two programmes, Penny Gore in-

PICK OF THE DAY

GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG, mountaineer, educationalist and poet, is sadly now almost a forgotten figure - perhaps his most enduring legacy is The Manhunt, a three-day game of hare and hounds played in the Lake District, which he started back in 1898. In this morning's feature, Manhunt (11am R4), Richard Coles examines this eccentric, beguiling, charming

PICK OF THE DAY

figure, and his work as one of the founding fathers of British climbing - his achievements included a second ascent of the Matterhorn after he'd lost a leg in the First World War. A Life Worth Living (8pm R4) is an interesting debate on disability and whether genetic engineering is a blessing, or a judgement on people's value. ROBERT HANKS



investigate the niceties of musical patronage. Haydn: String Quartet in G, Op 76 No 1. Prazak Quartet. Beethoven: Variations on a Theme of Count Waldstein. Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow (piano duo)
10.45 Night Waves. From Stubbs to Damien Hirst, animals have always been portrayed and displayed by artists to provide as much of a comment on human society as upon the natural world. Laura Cumming explores the relationship between art and animals in contemporary art and discusses the new Channel 4 television series 'The Truth about Art'. And Bill Buford delivers his regular letter on cultural life across the Atlantic.
11.30 Jazz Notes
12.00 Composer of the Week: Josquin (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night
RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today
9.00 NEWS: Midweek
9.45 Serial: Barrow's Boys
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour
11.00 NEWS: Manhunt. See Pick of the Day
11.30 Fanny Bones
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours
12.57 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.30 Wildbrain
2.00 NEWS: The Archers
2.15 The Golden Triangle
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time
3.30 Songlines
3.45 Gregory's Leap

4.00 NEWS: Case Notes
4.30 Thinking Allowed
5.00 PM
5.57 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Booked
7.00 NEWS: The Archers
7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson chairs the arts programme. In this edition, he delivers his verdict on 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', CS Lewis's classic for children, as staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company.
7.45 SBI Waters. Part 18 by Ann Marie Di Mambro and Cally Phillips. Kate's birthday looms and Charlie has a proposal. Meanwhile, an encounter with the mysterious Viske has a profound effect on Douglas, and Frankie Callaghan has big plans for Joanna. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan. Director David Jackson Young
8.00 NEWS: A Life Worth Living. Disabled people are concerned that scientists, carried away by the possibilities of genetic research, are making dangerous judgments about a person's value to society. Peter White chairs a debate about the subject between disabled people and leading scientists. See Pick of the Day
8.45 Better than Sex. Four writers celebrate a single, readily available sensual experience which gives them intense pleasure. 3: Maura Dooley on invitations on the Mantelapiece
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. Five years ago, nations surround-

Shipping Forecast 5.54 - 5.57
Shipping Forecast 11.30 - 12.00
Today in Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast
8.30 Test Match Special
9.30 Nicky Campbell
12.00 The Midday News
1.00 Ruscoe and Co
4.00 Drive
7.00 News Extra
7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Featuring coverage of all the night's action, including the Worthington Cup fifth round. Plus the National Lottery Draw
10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone-in with Richard Littlejohn. 0500 908693
11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion
1.00 Up All Night
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.5MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Requests 2.00 Concerto 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 9.00 Evening Concert 11.00 Alan Mann 2.00 Concerto 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths

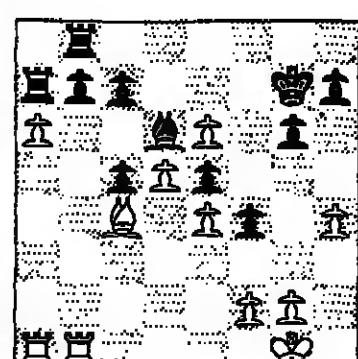
VIRGIN RADIO (125, 187-190kHz MW 105.9MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00 Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hain FM only Harriet Scott from 6.45 7.30 Harriet Scott
10.00 Mark Forster 1.00 James Merritt 4.30-6.30 Jeremy Clark
WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsday 1.30 Omnibus 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Meridian (Books) 3.00 World News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Brain of Britain 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today

TALK RADIO
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00 Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James Whale 1.00 Ian Collins 5.00 - 7.00 Early Show

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESSE

JON SPEELMAN



YESTERDAY, I gave (arguably) Kasparov's best game from his blitz match with Kramnik over the weekend. Today it's Kramnik's turn. In contrast to Kasparov, Kramnik is rather conservative in his opening play, particularly as White. He started with two 1 Qc2 Nimzo Indians - 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2; but as I explained yesterday, this is one of Kasparov's favourite lines as White and Kasparov won both.

For his remaining 10 Whites, Kramnik therefore retreated back into his shell, starting with his habitual 1 Nf3 and then fighting a transpositional battle to get the best he could out of whatever opening Kasparov chose to throw at him.

It was a varied diet, with five Slavs starting 1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 c6 followed by three Queen's Gambit Exchange Variations, all of which started 1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 c6 5 Nf5 Nbd7 6 cxd5 exd5 7 e3 Be7, with a Grünfeld thrown in after the first of these latter three. Kramnik scored well against all, not losing a single game and winning four: two Slavs and one against each of the others.

But before any of these, in game 6 Kasparov had tried what used to be one of his most fearsome weapons, the King's Indian Defence: an experiment he did not repeat.

Instead of 12... f5 - Kramnik had faced the less weakening 12... Bb6 three times in 1996 and 1997, scoring two draws against Topalov and a win against Van Wely. Kasparov's more forcing but also weakening choice suggests that he isn't very comfortable in this position.

18... f4 prevented a later exf5 followed by Bxb7, but was rather ugly. But instead of the horrible 26... b6? in the diagram, ossifying his position, he could still have tried 26...

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Gary Kasparov
ICC 1998
Kings Indian Defence
1 Nf3 Nf6 24 a6 Bb6
2 c4 g6 25 b4 Kg7
3 Nc3 Bg7 26 Bc4 see diagram b6?
4 e4 d6 27 Bb5 h6
5 d4 o-o 28 Kf1 Rf8
6 Be2 e5 29 Ke2 Rf6
7 o-o Nc6 30 Rh3 Kf8
8 d5 Ne7 31 Rh3 Kf7
9 b4 a5 32 Kd3 Kf8
10 Ba3 axb4 33 Kd4 Kf8
11 Bxb4 Nd7 34 Kd4 Kf7
12 a4 f5 35 Bc6 Kf8
13 Ng5 Nc5 36 Kf5 Kf7
14 Bxc5 dxc5 37 Bh7 Kf8
15 Bf3 Ra6 38 Rg1 Ke7
16 a5 Kh8 39 Rcl Kd8
17 Neff Exe6 40 Rcl Kd8
18 dxe6 f4 41 Rcl Kd8
19 Qxd8 Rxd8 42 Rcl Kd8
20 Rb1 Rb8 43 Rcl Kd8
21 Nd5 Nxd5 44 Rcl Kd8
22 cxd5 Bf8 45 Rcl Kd8
23 Be2 Ra7 46 Rcl Kd8

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

THERE WERE surprises for two of the players on this deal. First South, gloating over his game-going hand, was stunned to hear his partner open One Diamond. Later, West was horrified to find that his standard lead of the top of a sequence had proved disastrous.

After the opening bid South wasted no time - he responded 7 No-trumps!

This really was a bit wild - Seven Diamonds would have been easy, but in No-trumps there were only 12 top tricks.

Now, just suppose that West had led either minor suit. There would have been only one practical chance for declarer - the spade finesse, leading to the undignified loss of 100 points. But West's S10 went to the jack, queen and ace...

There were still only 12 winners and apparently the main chance had gone but, in an odd way, the lead forced declarer into the winning play. He had to rely on West having led from 10 9 8 7 and also holding ♠K. After winning with

Game all; dealer North

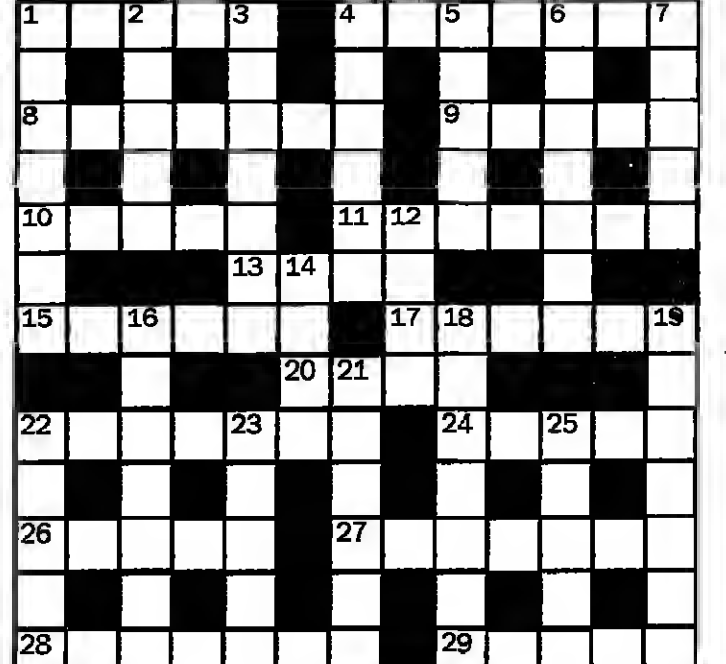
North	East
♠KJ	♠Q432
♥Q753	♥106
♦K1083	♦64
♣JQJ	♣8532

West East
♠10987 ♠Q432
♥KJ842 ♥106
♦2 ♦64
♣974 ♣8532

♠A, he cashed three club tricks, discarding ♣9 from hand, and followed with his six diamond tricks.

With three cards to go this left dummy with ♠K ♣Q ♣7, declarer with ♠65 ♠A, and West struggling for a discard from ♠8 ♠K ♠J. It was a perfect example of the so-called "criss-cross" squeeze.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- European capital (5)
 - Peaks (7)
 - Feature of high mountain (7)
 - Joisting weapon (5)
 - Follow (5)
 - Narrow neck of land (7)
 - Animal fat (4)
 - Negligent (6)
 - Items for discussion (6)
 - Nonlebanian (4)
 - Not occurring naturally (3-4)
 - Become liable for (5)
 - Mother-of-pearl (5)
 - Ruler's wife (7)
 - Unpolished seat (7)
 - Artist's support (5)
- DOWN**
- French chemist (7)
 - Origins (5)
 - Victory (7)
 - Sixties flower child (6)
 - Creek (5)
 - Executioner (7)
 - Appears (5)
 - Leading player (4)
 - Second-hand (4)
 - Tailless feline (4,3)
 - Catch sight of (7)
 - Spray (7)
 - Arm of Mediterranean (6)
 - Tropical fruit (5)
 - At right angles to vessel (5)
 - Board game (5)
- Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**
- ACROSS: 1 Dis, 3 Ember (December), 7 Alsatian, 8 Lace, 9 Ablette's foot, 10 Oddity, 12 Spint, 14 Dutch auction, 18 Run, 19 Grey area, 20 Piety, 21 Tin, DOWN: 1 Dullard, 2 Slush, 3 Ernie, 4 Balfoul, 5 Recto, 6 Finery, 11 License, 12 Sucker, 13 Nankene, 15 Usurp, 16 Angry, 17 Inapt.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DESPITE THE success of the recent 'Scream' films, Wes Craven's greatest contribution to the schlock-horror genre remains the monstrous Freddy Krueger (right), the appalling child-killer played with relish by Robert Englund. With this macabre figure, Craven showed that horror could be funny as well as scary. After some weak 'Nightmare on Elm Street' films, the fiend hit top form again in Wes Craven's New Nightmare

(10pm FilmFour), a 1994 update in which Freddy steps into the horror film and into 'real' life. The Romans left us some amazing buildings, 'Ancient Rome and its Mysterious Cities', this week's Ancient Mysteries (6pm History Channel), looks at how these monuments, built more than 2,000 years ago, have endured so well, despite the ravages of wars and natural disasters. JAMES RAMPTON



1.30-2.00 Ancient Warriors (989898)
SKY ONE
7.00 The Simpsons (23531) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (57592) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (5753) 9.00 Guilty (5127) 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (51559) 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (51544) 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (51522) 12.55 The Special K Collection (51522) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (51522) 1.55 The Special K Collection (51522) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (51522) 2.55 The Special K Collection (51522) 3.00 Jerry Jones (70542) 3.55 The Special K Collection (51522) 4.00 Guilty (51559) 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (51522) 6.00 Married with Children (51522) 6.30 Friends (51522) 7.00 The Simpsons (51522) 7.30 Real TV (2299) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (51522) 8.30 The X-Files (51522) 9.00 Millennium (51522) 11.00 Friends (51522) 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (51522) 12.30 Renegade (51522) 1.30-2.00 Long Play (51522)

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 7.30 Sports Centre (51522) 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 8.30 Sports Centre (51522) 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 9.30 Sports Centre (51522) 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 10.30 Sports Centre (51522) 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 11.30 Sports Centre (51522) 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 12.30 Sports Centre (51522) 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 1.30 Sports Centre (51522) 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 2.30 Sports Centre (51522) 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 3.30 Sports Centre (51522) 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 4.30 Sports Centre (51522) 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 5.30 Sports Centre (51522) 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 6.30 Sports Centre (51522) 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 7.30 Sports Centre (51522) 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 8.30 Sports Centre (51522) 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 9.30 Sports Centre (51522) 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 10.30 Sports Centre (51522) 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (51522) 11.30 Sports Centre (51522) 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